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Prosecutors: Lewinsky to support obstruction charge

WASHINGTON (AP) — Impeachment prosecutors expect Monica Lewinsky to support an obstruction of justice charge against President Bill Clinton with "almost total recall" of her conversations with him and her interpretation of what he said, House officials familiar with the strategy contend.

The prosecution team believes that Lewinsky "has a lot of information if you ask the right questions," said one House official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Lewinsky is due to testify today.

Ed Bryant, a Tennessee Republican and a soft-spoken former federal prosecutor, was assigned to question Lewinsky. He must skillfully use the former intern's interpretation of events to overcome Lewinsky's statement that "no one ever asked me to lie, and I was never promised a job for my silence."

Meanwhile, *The New York Times* reported in yesterday's editions that Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr has concluded he has the constitutional authority to seek a grand jury criminal indictment of Clinton before the president leaves office.

According to an account to several unidentified associates of Starr, the newspaper said that, despite concluding he has legal authority to seek a criminal indictment, Starr has not decided whether to do so.

"He is persuaded by precedent and logic that a sitting president can be indicted," one associate who was said to speak frequently with Starr told the *Times*. "But he has given no hint about whether he would do it, either now or sometime down the road."

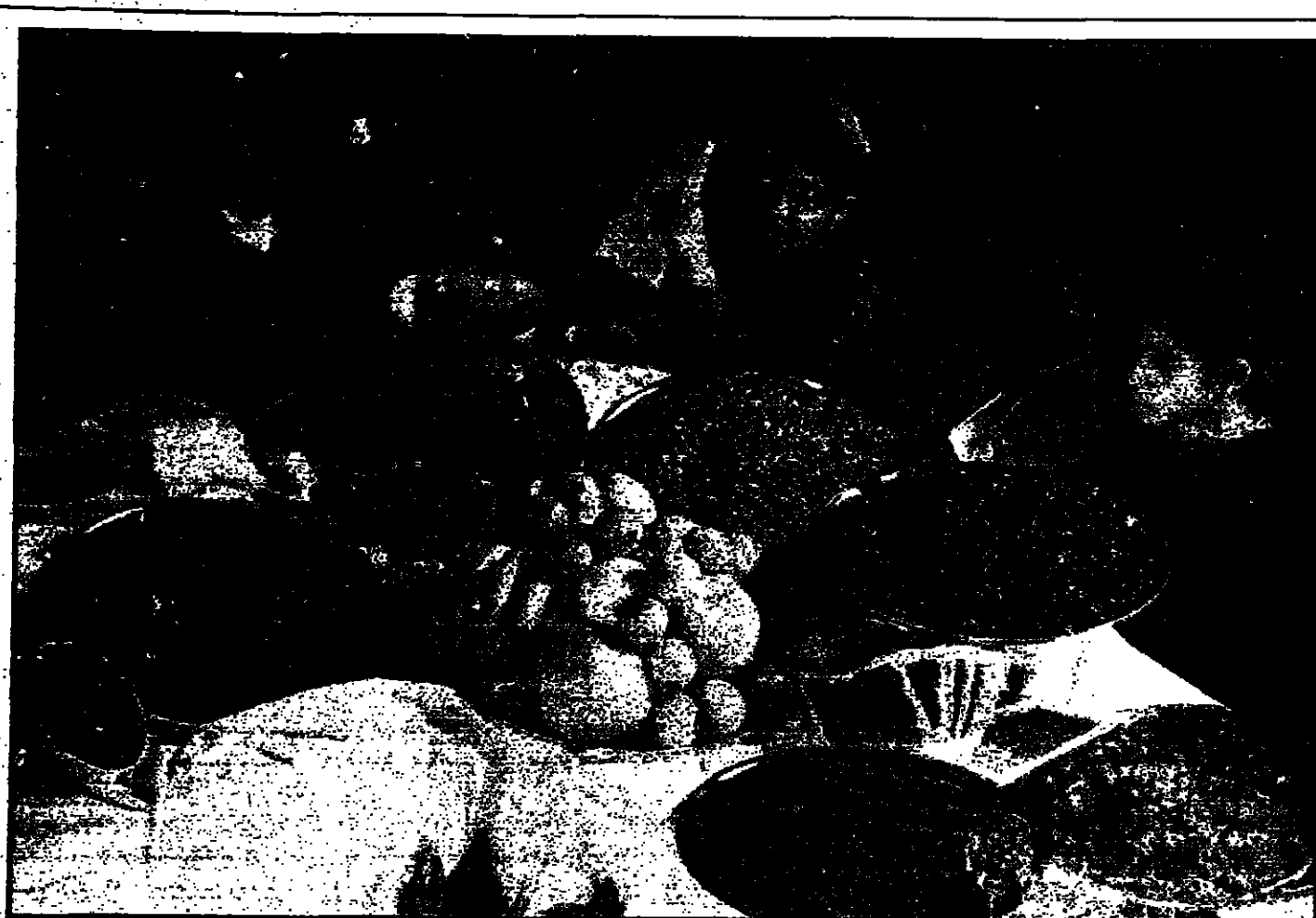
The White House reacted quickly. "Besides reinforcing his own stereotype as an out-of-control prosecutor, Ken Starr is tampering with the Senate trial," said White House special counsel Jim Kennedy. "Somebody ought to tell him he's not the 101st senator."

The *Times* reported that Starr agreed with the conclusion of two constitutional law scholars hired as consultants, that the Constitution does not bar indictment of a sitting president. There was no immediate response to a request for comment from Starr spokesman Charles Bakaly, but he told the *Times*: "We will not discuss the plans of this office or the plans of the grand jury."

Bryant is expected to ask Lewinsky about her false affidavit in the Paula Jones case, an attempt to get her a job after she appeared on the Paula Jones case witness list, and Oval Office secretary Betty Currie's removal of presidential gifts from the former intern.

The House team has promised to stay away from intimate details of her sexual relationship with the president, and any questions — even at the edge of the subject — would be approached gingerly.

All the testimony will be videotaped and reviewed by senators, who are expected to decide next week whether to make the depositions public and whether to seek live testimony by Lewinsky or the other witnesses.



Happy Tu B'Shvat
Children hold a Tu B'Shvat seder yesterday at the Jerusalem Mall in the capital's Malha neighborhood. (Brian Hendler)

Ramon to remain in Labor

By LIAT COLLINS

After another bout of deliberation, MK Haim Ramon announced yesterday he is staying in Labor. He also said he will accept any campaign position offered him as long as he can help Ehud Barak win the race for prime minister.

Nonetheless, Ramon did not say what he would do if he comes in at a low spot in the primary elections. He said he still disagrees with some of the organizational aspects of the party, but that the overriding priority is to replace Benjamin Netanyahu, whom he

called "the worst prime minister ever."

Barak said Ramon would be a central figure in the campaign and a Labor-led government and praised his decision to stay.

Ramon made the announcement at a mini-press conference in his Tel Aviv office, having first told Barak of his decision at a meeting in Barak's home. He also called Yitzhak Mordechai of the centrist party to let him know.

"My decision is final," Ramon announced, adding that "the decision now does not depend on me but on the party members." As to

the possibility that the election would not go in his favor, he said: "I will not accept a result which takes me out of the Knesset."

But he refused to say if this meant he would still consider moving to the centrist party, "because I'm not going to discuss hypothetical questions."

"I am going into the primaries and hope to reach the highest possible place," he said. "I hope they will consider only one thing — what is the best way to make Labor win the elections."

"Ehud Barak is the best candidate for prime minister and I want

him to be prime minister," Ramon said, adding that while considering his political future he had come to understand that if he left Labor it would affect Barak's chances of being elected, while not helping the centrist party beat Netanyahu.

He accused other senior Labor figures of trying to hurt him over the primary issue out of their own personal interests, but he did not name names.

See RAMON, Page 3

2 in public sector earn NIS 65,000

Budget up for final reading

By JESSICA STEINBERG

The Knesset Finance Committee is due to vote on the budget and accompanying arrangements bill today, then return them to the Knesset plenum by the end of the day for their final readings. Finance Committee secretary Ivor Kershner said yesterday.

The total budget, pegged at NIS 214 billion by the Treasury, includes less than a third for debt return and NIS 34.3b., less than a fifth, for defense.

Other chunks of the budget include NIS 64b. for a host of social services, including NIS 20b. for the Education Ministry and NIS 12b. for the Health Ministry.

Meanwhile, a report released yesterday by the Treasury on executive salaries in the public sector caused an outcry, just as legislators were poised to approve the budget. Among the findings: top executives at the Kupat Holim Clalit health fund and the Israel Electric Corp. are earning gross salaries of over NIS 65,000 a month, the highest in the public sector.

The 1999 state budget is one month overdue, and the Knesset is due to recess on Tuesday until after the national elections in May. For the last month, the Treasury has been paying bills based on last year's budget.

While Kershner said he believes most of the coalition MKs would support the budget and arrangements bill, he was not sure how Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs would vote on the controversial Public Housing

Law clause in the arrangements bill. The other troublesome articles in the 47-clause bill — municipal taxes, MKs' wages, extending the school day — will probably be canceled or postponed, he said.

The NIS 10b. housing law, proposed by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) and passed in October, allows public-housing dwellers to purchase their apartments at an 85% discount and with a 28-year subsidized mortgage. An alternative government proposal offers discounts up to 75% without a subsidized mortgage, and would also take location and the number of dwellers into account.

"The government is looking for a way to freeze this law in the arrangements bill so that it won't cause election-year damage," said Cohen. If the committee does vote to freeze the law in the arrangements bill, Cohen said he would vote against the bill today.

Meanwhile, figures released yesterday by Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik showed that two top executives at the Kupat Holim Clalit health fund and the Israel Electric Corp. are earning gross salaries of over NIS 65,000 a month, the highest in the public sector. The chief financial officer at Clalit earns NIS 67,237 per month, while the deputy general manager of the IEC earns NIS 65,474, according to the Treasury's report.

The report refers to gross figures, from which are deducted the various municipal and national taxes.

See PUBLIC, Page 2

Center party too rightist for Ramon

ANALYSIS

A visibly unhappy Haim Ramon was not selling a bill of goods yesterday when he claimed that only Ehud Barak is keeping him in Labor.

It is indeed so — in a way. There is no love lost between Ramon and the party. He made that clear enough by way of accounting for his decision not to fly the Labor coop. This, although his in-house adversaries seemed to open an escape hatch for him last week, when for the third time the central committee amended the touchy issue of the primaries system.

Unable to conceal his bitterness, Ramon maintained that his fellow Laborites will do more than just campaign to improve their own positions on the new party slate of Knesset candidates, they will do their utmost to push him down.

Labor, then, remains just as unattractive to Ramon as it had been.

He also gave no indication that he thinks Barak now stands a better chance to beat Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. For a long time, Ramon made no secret of the fact that he views Barak's prospects rather darkly. Yesterday, he took inordinate trouble to shirk possible blame in the event that Barak does not do well.

And yet it really was Barak who kept Ramon from leaving. How? It all has to do with the alternative. Ramon was set to jump on the Amnon Lipkin-Shahak bandwagon, but got cold feet upon realizing it was bogged down. Very shortly thereafter, Yitzhak Mordechai rode to the rescue, but not before demanding the reins.

So even when Ramon got another chance to climb on board last week, he had to consider the new driver.

With Mordechai in control, it just wasn't the same anymore.

Ramon was counting on moving to a cozy, familiar Labor B, which would have been politically plausible for him. He could have attracted others to his side, and erected a Labor alternative, much like he did in the Histadrut several years ago.

But when Shahak yielded the center party leadership, he all but killed the Labor B option. To revive it, Shahak in fact badly needed Ramon — if nothing else than as a face-saving, glittering decoration — but Ramon was not going to take immense risks to enter Mordechai's "Likud refugee camp," as a dejected ex-Laborite described his new party.

See ANALYSIS, Page 2

Autopsy: Seven-year-old Safed boy died of neglect

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

An autopsy performed on seven-year-old Amiel Feldman of Safed, who died Friday, concluded that he died from complications brought on by severe pneumonia, neglect, and lack of medical attention — and not from beatings as originally suspected.

Feldman's death led to the arrest of his mother, Yocheved, 45, a US citizen, and her friend Maha Paz shortly after his body was taken to Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed, where doctors examining his corpse feared he had been the victim of child abuse. The boy was buried last night.

Dr. Yehuda Hess, director of the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute, told Channel 1 yesterday there were no signs of beating on the boy's body. He died from a severe heart and lung infection and the lack of medical treatment.

Hess hinted that not all child abuse is necessarily physical, but preventing a child from receiving medical treatment could be considered a type of abuse. In Amiel's case, he said, he believes his life could have been saved had he not been denied proper treatment.

The mother apparently told police her son had slipped and fallen in the bathtub and hit his

head last Thursday. Other reports claimed she changed her story and said the child had been unwell for at least a week, but had agreed to let Paz, reportedly a homeopathic practitioner, treat her son at home rather than seek conventional medical attention.

When his condition worsened last Thursday and he began to vomit, Feldman decided to seek medical attention — but toward evening he decided his condition had improved. The following morning she found him dead.

Safed police chief Chief-Supt. Samia Tafesh said police sent the boy's body for autopsy to determine whether he had been the victim of abuse. The findings were handed over to police yesterday afternoon.

Tafesh told Channel 1 the child died from complications of a heart

infection brought on by pneumonia and neglect. Burn-like marks on the boy's body noticed by the hospital doctors turned out to be serious bed sores caused by his being bedridden. The mother, he said, withheld medical treatment believing his condition would improve through "natural" medicine.

The mother responded to allegations of abuse on Channel 2, saying: "He wasn't bruised; he had sores. Would I kill my son? Would you kill your son?"

Tafesh said the investigation is continuing and police are considering charging both women with negligent manslaughter.

Feldman is divorced and has been living in Safed less than two years with her son and female friend. Her former husband has remained in the US with two of their children.

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NEWS

in brief

IAF hits Hizbullah targets

IAF planes struck at Hizbullah targets in south Lebanon yesterday. The army said its jets attacked targets near the village of Yatar, and all planes returned safely to base. There was no immediate word on Hizbullah casualties. The raid came a few hours after Hizbullah announced it had detonated a roadside bomb against a position manned jointly by the IDF and South Lebanon Army in the village of Blatt. *Arich O'Sullivan and AP*

Regev named DC embassy spokesman

The Foreign Ministry has decided to appoint David Regev as the spokesman for the embassy in Washington, DC, sources at the ministry said yesterday. The appointment comes half a year after Regev's name was first suggested, and despite attempts by Ambassador Zalman Shoval and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to bring in their candidate, journalist Avinoam Bar-Yosef. *Danna Harman*

New inner cabinet announced

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu announced the establishment of a new inner cabinet yesterday, made up of Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and National Security Adviser David Ivry. This body replaces the security cabinet that included Sharon, dismissed defense minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky. Netanyahu said Sharansky would be invited to join discussions pertaining to issues he is involved in – such as the problem of technology transfer from Russia to the Middle East. *Danna Harman*

Yisraelovitz found guilty of corruption

Former Histadrut treasurer Arthur Yisraelovitz was found guilty in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday of illegally funneling Histadrut funds to help colleagues' electoral campaigns. In 1994, when then-secretary-general Haim Haberfeld was running against Haim Ramon for the Histadrut leadership, Yisraelovitz was responsible for paying a detective agency NIS 577,922 to investigate Ramon, as well as funneling millions to Haberfeld's campaign. He also illegally transferred Histadrut funds to Yisrael Kessar's 1992 campaign to be the Labor Party's candidate for prime minister. Sentencing is scheduled for February 11. *Itim*

New cabinet secretary appointed

The cabinet yesterday approved the appointment of attorney Gideon Sa'ar as cabinet secretary, to replace Dan Naveh who resigned to run in the Likud Knesset primaries. Sa'ar studied law at Tel Aviv University, graduating in 1994. He has worked as an aide to the legal adviser to the government, and as an aide to the state attorney. Since 1998, he has been working as the senior aide to the Tel Aviv district attorney. *Danna Harman*

Sharon: No preconditions to Syria peace talks

By Danna Harman

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday reiterated the government's interest in restarting peace talks with the Syrians. Sharon, speaking to a group of French publishers and editors in Jerusalem, said that "Israel is prepared to carry out negotiations without preconditions with the Syrians." Last week, Sharon asked EU special envoy Miguel Moratinos to pass along a similar message to Syrian President Hafez Assad. Sharon also reiterated the government's position regarding Lebanon yesterday, saying Israel has no interest in remaining in southern Lebanon, but that withdrawing would require proper

security assurances. He made it clear he does not believe the resolution of the Lebanese problem needs to be linked to the restarting of peace talks with the Syrians.

Meanwhile, discussing the situation in Jordan at the weekly cabinet meeting, both Sharon and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said they have learned that King Hussein's condition is stable and they wished him a complete recovery.

The prime minister and the foreign minister also assessed the situation in Jordan itself as stable and that Crown Prince Abdullah is continuing the king's policies. Netanyahu made it clear that the government views Israeli-Jordanian relations as a main pillar of its policy.

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

The centrists, extremely eager to have Ramon, offered him the No. 4 slot, without the primaries ordeal. But Ramon says in private conversations that he is not convinced they are a going concern. He fears the new party's life span may be very short, despite the big names at the top. He fears they won't get along, and will noisily disintegrate in the likely event they do not win

the premiership. Ramon knows that most of the centrist headlines that hail from the Likud were major troublemakers there, and this is not the ideal company he pictured for himself.

If there eventually is a falling out among this cast of former Likud characters, then his hopes for a senior cabinet portfolio are likely to come to naught.

He would be cutting his ultimate losses, Ramon finally reckoned, if he preferred Barak to what is a Mordechai-led Likud annex,

Jewish leaders to question Lauder

Appointment as head of Presidents' Conference in doubt

By MARILYN HENRY

The nominating committee of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations is expected to question businessman-philanthropist Ronald Lauder today or tomorrow about allegations he financially supported Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's political campaign, sources said yesterday.

Lauder was nominated to be the next chairman of the conference after convincing the committee that he did not underwrite Netanyahu's 1996 campaign. However, a story published in both *Ha'aretz* and the *New York Jewish Week* raised questions

about those financial ties, which in turn raised doubts about his candor and left many conference members uneasy.

"The article raised serious questions. I want answers," said Philip Melzer, president of the Association of Reform Zionists of America.

"There was no smoking gun," said one member of the conference, referring to the absence of a direct link between Lauder and Netanyahu's campaign. "But there is a question of confidence. I hope he telling the whole truth, not the technical truth. Did he tell the truth? Can we trust him?"

The election of a chairman by the full conference traditionally is a genteel process

of approving the candidate already selected by the nominating committee. Lauder's nomination may be the first to be challenged.

The full conference, which already has sharp divisions among its more than 50 members, is scheduled to meet on Wednesday. The group's decisions are made by consensus, not by a majority vote.

"If 27, 28 oppose him, that's not a consensus," said one source.

However, yesterday it appeared that out-and-out opposition was far-fetched.

Several sources, who are apprehensive about Lauder's nomination, mused that conference members may not be "courageous"

enough to challenge Lauder's statement to the nominating committee. One source said that, in general, debates within the conference have become intolerably acrimonious. Some members are said to be daunted by Lauder's wealth, or by executive director Malcolm Hoenlein, who backs Lauder.

Lauder is the head of the Jewish National Fund, a key benefactor of Jewish projects in Central and Eastern Europe, and the heir to the cosmetics concern Estee Lauder. If elected, he would replace Mel Salberg at the Presidents Conference, which is considered the "central address" of organized American Jewry, although it has lost much of its authority since the Oslo Accords.



Arafat meets Annan

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat (left) gestures to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan prior to talks in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday at the World Economic Forum. PA Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Nabil Shaath told *The Jerusalem Post* that Arafat has not decided to postpone a declaration of statehood on May 4. "We are still considering and will continue to consider the very notion of an independence statement until the last day," he said. (Text: Dan Gerstenfeld; photo: Reuters)

MKs to oversee pilots' strike settlement

By NINA GILBERT and ARLEN O'SULLIVAN

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee decided yesterday to establish a subcommittee to monitor the agreement reached between striking reserve pilots and the IDF on insurance, and to ensure that necessary funds are earmarked for reservists' policies.

The unprecedented pilots' strike focused on demands to raise their compensation and life insurance to that of career IDF personnel should they be seriously injured or killed during reserve duty.

At a meeting attended by pilots and representatives of reserve brigade and battalion commanders yesterday, the MKs agreed to ask the Finance Committee to earmark NIS 100 million for the insurance policies as an interim measure

until an arrangement can be cemented in legislation.

Committee chairman MK Uzi Landau (Likud) said the strike "was absolutely unacceptable." However, he also accused the Treasury and defense establishment of incompetence and foot-dragging in dealing with the controversy.

Landau said a solution to the crisis must be "absolute equality between reservists and career soldiers on insurance policies."

Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran said yesterday the agreement would improve the insurance coverage of all reservists, not just pilots and not just those with life insurance policies. He said the interim solution requires new legislation.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said the crisis was the result of the reservists "talking to a brick

wall for more than a year, and after such a long time sometimes it is necessary to move the wall."

Meretz whip Haim Oron said the interim agreement "is absolutely not enough. It is still necessary to secure funds and make a change in legislation," although a solution could have been reached before the pilots went on strike.

Oron noted that the subcommittee would work to secure funding, and he would file a reservation to the 1999 economic arrangements bill to earmark NIS 100m. in funds from the amount the Treasury wants to transfer from its reserves to fight unemployment.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens is expected to meet with the pilots and reservist representatives today. *Itim contributed to this report.*

Report: Abdullah initiated succession

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON – A secret flight to the Mayo clinic in Minnesota by Prince Abdullah convinced King Hussein to leave his sickbed and return to Jordan to remove his brother, Hassan, from the line of succession and name his eldest son as heir, *The Sunday Times* of London reported yesterday.

Abdullah decided to embark on the trip after learning that Hassan, then crown prince, had summoned army Chief of Staff Gen. Mari Kaabna to the palace in Amman and ordered him to prepare for the succession.

"Tell your generals the king is not well and they should be prepared for any possible future development," Hassan reportedly told Kaabna, the newspaper said.

But the general, a personal appointment of Hussein, was shocked at Hassan's order and considered that the implication was close to treason.

He reportedly retorted: "This is not your house, it is the king's," before storming out of the palace.

Hearing of the encounter, Abdullah, himself a major-general in the army, flew to Minnesota aboard a royal executive jet to inform his father of the development.

As a result of this, and reports that Hassan's wife, Princess Sarvath, had ordered interior decorators into the palace, Hussein, who had spent six months in the US receiving treatment for non-Hodgkins lymphoma, decided to return to Amman and order the succession.

PUBLIC

Continued from Page 1

It surveys salaries paid to public sector employees by local authorities, municipalities, government companies and corporations, religious authorities, and support organizations.

Lawsuits will be brought against some of the public entities which overpaid, said Kucik, forcing them to cut the excessive salaries and pay refunds.

The average gross monthly wage

for employees was NIS 6,088 during the third quarter of last year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics in December – 2.4% higher than at the end of the third quarter in 1997.

The top 20 wage-earning department heads earn NIS 55,600 on average, while the top five salaried employees, also department heads, cost the company an average of NIS 63,390 each.

"You're talking about senior executives with the highest education, who developed within the company," said an IEC spokeswoman. "Every single one of them could have been the chief executive of a large industrial concern."

The executive salaries at the IEC were established in accordance with approved collective labor agreements, according to the spokeswoman.

One of the highest-paid in the public sector – Kupat Holim Leumi accountant Ilana Dreyer – is not a staff member of the health fund but an outside adviser. Leumi spokesman Moshe Bahagon said yesterday, "She earns NIS 54,000 a month, but that amount includes VAT and social benefits, so her take-home pay is lower," he said. "She's worth every penny; it's almost nothing," the spokesman added.

Clalit director-general Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg, the Clalit spokesman said his salary of NIS 52,000 was set "by the government

HIGHEST-PAID OFFICIALS IN PUBLIC SECTOR

NIS 67,237
NIS 65,474
NIS 61,828
NIS 60,090
NIS 59,521
NIS 59,189
NIS 58,577
NIS 54,356
NIS 51,379

Manager, Kupat Holim Clalit
Deputy General Manager, Israel Electric Corp.
President, Haifa University
President, Bar-Gurion University
President, Bar-Ilan University
Legal Advisor, Tel Aviv University
General Manager, Herzliya Municipality
Financial Officer, Kupat Holim Leumi
Department, Heads, Bank of Israel

Source: Treasury Wage Report, 1997

[the Treasury] in negotiations with the doctors. Whoever finds fault with that amount should go to the Treasury." According to Kucik's report, 44% of the wages paid by the 658 public bodies surveyed exceed the Treasury's set levels, down from 52% in 1996 and 62%

in 1995. The Bank of Israel lists 10 department heads as earning an average of NIS 51,358. The central bank said it does not pay excessive salaries, which are based on agreements made for 1993 through 1997. *Judy Siegel contributed to this report.*

The CRB Foundation expresses its sympathy to Dr. Janet Aviad on the passing of her mother
BETTY KOFFLER
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مجلس الأمن

'Red Haifa' in revolt against Labor

By LIAT COLLINS

Despite its nickname of "Red Haifa," Labor Party supporters there are continuing their rebellion that started when a Haifa representative was only given the 29th slot on the Knesset list. If appointments are made to other reserved slots, this could drop as low as the 35th place, not

necessarily a realistic spot. Labor members in the North held an emergency meeting yesterday, after a week of talks with party leader Ehud Barak did not produce the desired results. Meanwhile, the party's offices in Haifa and the bayside area have been closed. At the center of the struggle are two current Haifa-area MKs,

Yossi Katz, who chairs the State Control Committee, and Yona Yahav. Barak has apparently been understanding, but has not come up with an acceptable solution. The two MKs are expected to meet today in the Knesset with Barak, party secretary-general Ra'anan Cohen, and the legal adviser David Liba'i. It was decided last night that if

the situation is not changed, Haifa party members will not participate in the primaries. "The national Labor leadership is responsible for the fact that the largest [party] region in the country might keep away from the elections. Someone who wants to create One Israel [Barak's umbrella movement] should not mistakenly think that Haifa and

the North will be the 'Second Israel,'" said Yahav. Among the protest measures banded around at yesterday's meeting were declaring Barak persona non grata in Haifa area Labor offices and holding a mass protest outside party headquarters in Tel Aviv, although Barak will obviously try to reach a solution to prevent this.



A giant poster of Pnina Rosenblum goes up yesterday at Ramat Gan's Diamond Exchange, in time for the official announcement that she is running for the Knesset. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Pnina Rosenblum launches party

By JUDITH A. GILBERT
Now, it's official. Pnina Rosenblum is running for the Knesset. This morning the election registrar is to add her party to the official list of those running for the Knesset. "I'm tired of sitting and watching what happens from the side," the

businesswoman and former model said yesterday, adding that forming her own party will allow her to improve the socioeconomic situation of women. She believes that a party headed by a woman will be much more successful in achieving this than female MKs who entered the Knesset on seats from the established parties. The party will focus on domestic

issues, such as laws against domestic violence, the rights of working mothers, and the economy. Rosenblum said, and not security issues. She said she does not plan to endorse any of the candidates for the premiership, saying only that she would support a Labor or Likud prime minister who has "charm, integrity, is capable of compromis-

ing but strong, and keeps his word." In a mock election yesterday at Kfar Sava's Galili School, the Pnina Rosenblum list won eight mandates, according to Avi Blashnikov, No. 2 on the list. While the list has won eight or nine seats in several school elections over the past year, Rosenblum said she will be pleased if she wins four seats in the Knesset.

Knesset to rescind wage rise

By NINA GILBERT

The Knesset is scheduled today to rescind its decision of last week to raise the salaries of deputy ministers by 5 percent, following an outcry by MKs from most parties and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu asked Speaker Dan Tichon to bring the matter again before the House, after accusing Shas MKs of being responsible for the move. The decision was implemented when few MKs were available to take part in the vote. Among those who voted for the measure were two Shas deputy

ministers, Shlomo Benizri and Aryeh Gamliel. The rise would have added another NIS 1,300 a month to the salaries of some 1,200 public officials, whose wages are linked to the grade scale of deputy ministers. Labor Party leader Ehud Barak also came out against the decision. When Netanyahu asked MKs last October to forfeit a 5 percent update in their salaries, linked to the average wage, they refused. However, given the present atmosphere of "election economics," lawmakers are unlikely at this point to support a raise for senior public officials.

Tichon won't appoint Knesset sergeant-at-arms

By NINA GILBERT

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon does not intend to appoint a sergeant-at-arms before the Knesset dissolves, but is to ensure the security of the legislature via a temporary appointment of a security adviser, the Knesset spokesman said yesterday.

The Knesset has been without a sergeant-at-arms for six months, following the retirement of the long-serving Eitan Ben-Eliahu. Tichon recently sought to appoint his spokesman, Lt.-Col. (res.) Giora Pordes to the post temporarily, until the next Knesset forms. However, some members of the Knesset House Committee supported the candidacy of former General Security Service official Ehud Yatom and pushed for his immediate appointment. However, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein noted in a legal opinion requested by Tichon that Yatom's involvement in the Bus No. 300 affair would likely not stand up to objections brought to the High Court of Justice. Yatom has admitted to taking part, under orders, in the murder of two terrorists who hijacked a bus in 1984 on the Coastal Highway and subsequent obstruction of justice in the affair, Rubinstein said. He noted that Yatom is therefore not suited to holding public law enforcement posts.

"It is not suitable to appoint such a person to a sensitive post on the eve of the Knesset's dissolution," Tichon said. "It would be unfair for the next Speaker to have such an appointment forced on him." As a result, he has decided to appoint a temporary security adviser. For the past six months, the deputy commander of the Knesset Guard has been acting as sergeant-at-arms. Meanwhile, Tichon rejected comments by Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi that the Knesset's security has been neglected for the past six months.

"Such comments cause great harm to the Knesset's security," he said, adding he was shocked over such a comment from a former adviser to the prime minister on terrorism. Tichon added that he had full faith in the Knesset Guard to ensure security. Ze'evi and other members of the House Committee, including Gideon Ezra (Likud) and Moshe Peled (Tsomet), had backed Yatom's appointment at a recent committee meeting. They have also objected to the temporary appointment of Tichon's candidate.

ELECTIONS

notebook

Labor slams new Likud slogan

"Netanyahu, a strong leader for a strong people" is the new Likud slogan, using the prime minister's name for the first time this campaign. The most recent Likud billboard campaign has focused on the slogan: "Barak will give, the Likud will save." Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg criticized the slogan, saying it was reminiscent of the Nazis and would offend Holocaust survivors. Israel Radio reported. Labor's campaign has directly attacked Netanyahu, saying: "Netanyahu gives in to haredim and extremist settlers." Another slogan is "Barak fights for Israel!" Liat Collins

Peled join Moledet

Tsomet MK Moshe Peled said yesterday that he was joining Moledet. MK Rehavam Ze'evi has been unanimously reelected as the head of Moledet. The party will decide its Knesset list at later date. Ze'evi rejected reports that the party is trying to change its 11-year-old platform calling for transfer. Liat Collins and Itim

Tal joins Kol Hasviva

Alon Tal, former director-general of the Israel Union for the Defense of the Environment - Adam, Teva, Ve'din, has joined Kol Hasviva, led by former Environment Ministry director-general Nehama Ronen. Tal will be a candidate on the party's Knesset list, which has not been finalized, and will be in charge of working with the non-governmental environmental organizations. Liat Collins

PM: No ethnic politics in Likud

Responding to criticism that there are no Sephardim in the senior Likud leadership, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that he has no intention of including anyone just because of their ethnic origin. "The last place one could say there are barriers between Sephardim and Ashkenazim is in the Likud," he told a press conference. "This is simply something that does not exist, and I don't think in those terms." Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak derided Netanyahu's statement. "Who better than me remembers the atmosphere of racist attacks against David Levy in the cassette affair, the disgusting arrogance towards Shaul Amur and Itzik [Yitzhak] Mordechai, the whispering in the ear of Rabbi Kadourie," said Barak. "This is a man who knows only how to break up, to divide, to sow incitement and internal strife. He has only a little time - 3.5 months - until the public will make sure there is a different government here, which will unite the people and stop the incitement." Danna Harman and Liat Collins

Pensioners' party founded

"Power to the Pensioners," a non-partisan organization of pensioners, senior citizens, Holocaust survivors and welfare recipients was formally listed as a political party yesterday at the Justice Ministry. "Power to the Pensioners," is led by Gidon Ben-Israel, Chairman of the Israel Pensioners Union, and enjoys support from the major senior citizens' organizations. Former labor and social affairs minister Dr. Yisrael Katz, who is on the party list observed that two-thirds of senior citizens are at the bottom thirtieth percentile of the socioeconomic spectrum. Itim

PM signs pact on Likud election etiquette

PM Benjamin Netanyahu responded to MK Avraham Herschson's (Likud) invitation and yesterday signed a political pact regarding conduct during internal Likud elections. Herschson will also obtain the signatures of other Likud figures. The pact pledges that the parties "will not engage in physical violence or speech that threatens physical violence or incitement to violence." Jerusalem Post Staff

RAMON

Continued from Page 1

He also said he was one of the few Labor people fully committed to bringing about new elections, while others said there was no chance and stood to one side. "Barak gave me full support for this move," he said. Ramon again spoke of the need to reach different sectors to win the elections. This was behind his threat that he would not remain in the party with Ori Orr, after Orr's statements against Sephardim, he explained. "The Labor Party in its current form cannot link up with different communities without which it will not be possible to win the elections," he said, anticipating that the campaign would be "very difficult, a neck-to-neck race." Danna Harman adds: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scoffed at Ramon's announcement. "Ramon is now backing away

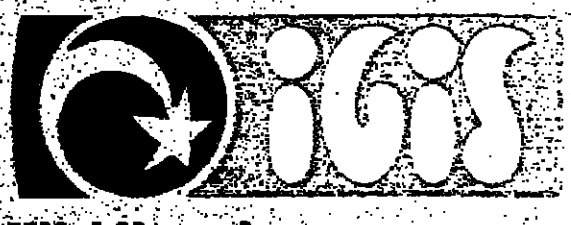
from his previous threat to leave the party if Ori Orr remains a member, and Barak - who went and apologized to the Sephardim - is now hugging his best friend, Orr... These people should not be giving lessons to anyone," Netanyahu said at a news conference last night. He also said that "Ramon and Ehud Barak are members of the Left, who believe in the mistaken path of giving in without demanding anything in return, and we have seen where this led the country. Therefore it is not for them to give us lessons in protecting this country." Aryeh Dean Cohen adds: Interviewed last night on Channel 2's Starting this week program, Ramon quipped about some of his Labor detractors: "They went to their computers and asked: 'Computer, computer, what kind of system can we use to reduce the support for Haim Ramon to the minimum - come up with something now!' But I've managed in the past and I believe I'll manage in the past and I believe I'll manage this time as well."

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20

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NEWS

in brief

Soldier suspected of armed robbery

The police and Military Police are investigating Nadar Khaled, 22, a soldier and resident of Ibtin, near Haifa, for his involvement in an armed robbery more than two months ago.

Khaled is believed to have entered a bank with accomplices, shot at the clerks at close range, and made off with NIS 2.5 million. Laboratory tests have since shown that Khaled's army weapon was used in the crime.

On the day of the robbery, Khaled was taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital following a car accident, later released, and then admitted to another hospital. Khaled is thought to have committed the robbery between the two hospitalizations. His remand was extended by five days by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court at the weekend.

Suspected drug smugglers arrested

Tel Aviv police arrested six men yesterday morning on suspicion of smuggling heroin and cocaine into the country and into Western Europe. Three are brothers from Tel Aviv, one is from Petah Tikva, and two are from Holon. A 23-year-old woman from Tel Aviv is also being investigated.

Information on the suspects was accumulated over the past two years by agents from the US Drug Enforcement Administration, acting in Israel and abroad, and working together with English, German, Belgian, and local police.

The suspects' latest operation was to have been carried out this month and involve smuggling heroin from China.

Father charged with abusing infant

The Tel Aviv District Court charged Meir Brinna, 35, with battering and neglecting his two-week old infant. The infant is hospitalized in critical condition.

Brinna is accused of slapping the infant, throwing him against a bed, and covering his face with a blanket when he would not stop crying. When the infant developed a lung infection and would not eat, the man allegedly refused to take him to a doctor, despite the pleas of his wife.

Brinna is also charged with battering and threatening his wife when she tried to prevent him from mistreating the infant.

200 sex lines disconnected

Bezeq yesterday disconnected over 200 phone lines used by the Bracha and Meir Company Ltd. to supply erotic phone services.

The order was issued by the Communications Ministry against the company, which is run by Yoram Nissim and Larissa Valchik illegally over 57 lines. The ministry said the company had violated the terms of its license, which was granted for legitimate information services, and had continued to operate after losing the license. The ministry had received many complaints about "deception" carried out by the company against unsuspecting customers billed for calls made to the service by members of their households.

Archbishop of Canterbury 'learns' from Syria

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey said in Damascus yesterday that he was impressed that Christians and Muslims live together peacefully in Syria and that "the world could learn from this," AP reported.

Carey was speaking with reporters at the end of a five-day visit to Syria, during which he met President Hafez Assad and a number of Christian and Muslim leaders for talks on promoting ties between the faiths. He was quoted as saying that Israel's construction of settlements in occupied Arab land is a policy he "always deplores" and that Assad wants to see a lasting peace in the region which is based on justice.

Carey met Saturday with the head of the Syrian Orthodox Church, Patriarch of Antioch Aghnapius

Zakka Eiwass. A statement issued by the Patriarchate said Eiwass had stressed the need to "guarantee the identity of holy Arab Jerusalem and the continuous existence of Arab Christians there."

In response, Rabbi David Rosen, director of the Israel office of the ADL, said that one understands that the Christian communities in Syria must put the best face on a precarious situation and that it is obvious that Assad has made political capital of the Syrian Christians. It is also clear, he said, to Christians and Muslims alike what happens to those who did not serve the political master of Syria, as could be seen in the annihilation of the entire city of Hama.

"We all look forward to the day when all religious denominations in Syria can enjoy the degree of genuine religious freedom that exists for all denominations in Jerusalem today," Rosen said.

3 workers hurt in chemical blaze

By LIAT COLLINS

The Environment Ministry has issued a closure order for the Pelichim Chemical factory at an industrial zone near Haifa, three of whose workers were injured in a fire which broke out yesterday morning.

The ministry said the company, which manufactures paint thinners and turpentine using highly flammable materials, does not have a business license or a license to deal with hazardous materials.

"We only learned of the company after the accident," said Maurice Saguy, a ministry investigator. "It has moved from site to site without the necessary permits."

Despite the cloud of black smoke which hovered above the plant after the fire, the ministry said no pollutants were found in the air.

Police and a special team of firefighters are investigating the cause of the blaze. Preliminary findings indicate an electrical problem as the initial cause.

The three workers were taken to hospital and are reported to be suffering from light to moderate injuries, mainly burns.

Besides issuing an immediate closure order, Ministry Director-General Roni Komar ordered the plant's hazardous material removed to the Ramat Hovav toxic waste site. The ministry is also continuing its investigation.

When the fire broke out, police closed off the immediate area and evacuated workers from the plant and nearby factories.

"I heard four big bangs," said Nitzan Redlich, manager of a neighboring fuel marketing agency.

"Tanks filled with paint thinner were blazing," said local fireman Gershon Salberman. "We managed to stop the fire spreading to the plant itself."

Fires have broken out at other chemical plants recently, sparking concern over environmental damage and safety practices.

News agencies contributed to this report.



Uri Shlomo (center) consults yesterday with his lawyers, Moshe Meroz (right), and David Yiftah in Tel Aviv District Court.

(Yael Somakh/Israel Sun)

Jerusalem man charged with raping Miss World

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

Uri (Nur) Shlomo was charged yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court with kidnapping and raping Linor Abergil in Italy in October; several weeks before she won the Miss World contest.

Shlomo's lawyers asked Judge Amichai Dweck to drop the case, as Shlomo is being tried in Italy for the incident. A hearing on the matter is scheduled for this morning.

Dweck also postponed making a decision on whether to release Shlomo to house arrest until February 14.

Abergil, a Netanya resident who was working in Milan as a model, asked Shlomo, a Givat Ze'ev resident who runs a travel agency in Milan, to make arrangements for her return to Israel.

Shlomo offered to drive her from Milan to Rome, where she could catch a plane to Tel Aviv. However, according to the charge sheet, Shlomo instead drove Abergil around Milan for several hours, pulled off the road at an isolated location about 15 minutes from the city, and raped, sodomized, and stabbed her.

Shlomo denies the charges, and claims that Abergil is trying to frame him, though he would not explain why.

"He's not ready to reveal the reason yet," Shlomo's lawyer Moshe Meroz said.

According to the charge sheet, after they had been driving for several hours, Shlomo suggested that Abergil get into the back seat and try to sleep. After she fell asleep, he stopped the car and joined her in the back seat. He woke her up and asked her to have sex with him. When she refused, he pulled out a knife and

demanding that she undress, stabbing her lightly in the chest and stomach until she complied. He then raped her.

Abergil asked him to let her out of the car for a moment, with the hope that she could flee, according to the charge sheet. However, he bound her arms and sealed her mouth with masking tape, before getting out of the car with her and raping her again. He then tried to strangle and suffocate her.

In a statement Abergil released two weeks ago, she said that Shlomo then drove her back to Milan, after she promised not to report the incident to police. The next day, Abergil took a train to Rome where she reported the rape to police before returning to Israel. Legal proceedings on the incident are under way in Italy.

Police arrested Shlomo on January 9 when he returned to Israel.

JNF tree planting stations span country for Tu Bishvat

By NAOMI SIMONS and Nim

Tu Bishvat, the Jewish festival of trees, will be marked around the country today with traditional tree plantings and feasts of fruit.

The Israeli Fruit Growers Organization will put aside their worries about low water reservoir levels and celebrate with a large delivery of Israeli-grown fruit to Beit Hanassi this morning as a proud demonstration of the variety and quality

of produce grown in the country. Israel produced some 500,000 tons of fruit last year.

After what will no doubt be a fruit-feeding frenzy, President Ezer Weizman, along with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, will get their hands dirty at an official tree planting ceremony honoring 50 years since the establishment of the Knesset. The ceremony is to take place at 2 p.m. this afternoon outside the Knesset.

It will be followed by the opening of today's session of the legislature with a debate dedicated to the 50th anniversary.

Today is also the last day of the Knesset's winter session, cut short due to early elections. However, the session is scheduled to be held over at least until tomorrow to complete the debate and vote on the 1999 state budget.

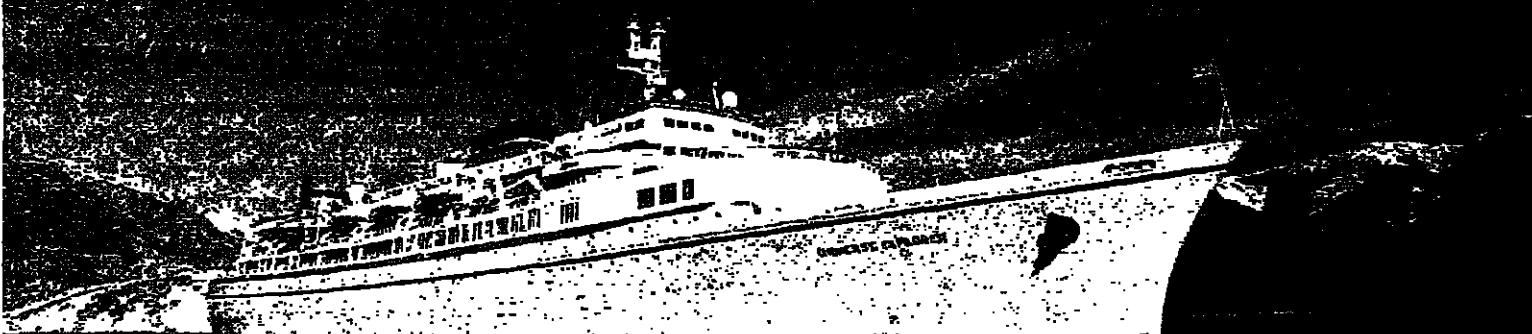
The rest of the country has the opportunity to get some soil stuck under their fingernails through numerous JNF tree

plantings spanning the length of the country.

"Stop, Plant, and Go" express planting stations have been set up along various major routes, such as along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, so that you do not even need to detour from your journey in order to take part in the festivities.

For your nearest tree planting event call the JNF hot line on 1-800-350-550 or visit their website: www.netvision.net.il/kakal. Nina Gilbert contributed to this report.

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Aboard The SS Universe Explorer

THE PRIZES:

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OTHER PRIZES:

Starting February 10 and continuing until March 10, 1999, one fully-completed entry form will be drawn each day and awarded a beautiful coffee table book from Steimatzky. The names of the winners will be published daily in the newspaper. Daily prize winners remain eligible for the Grand Prize Drawing.

THE CONTEST:

Every day for the next 6 weeks (January 22 - March 4)

The Jerusalem Post will print one of the six cartoon coupons shown to the right in the newspaper. Collect a different cartoon coupon each day, by cutting it out and pasting it on the entry form. When all 6 cartoons have been attached to the corresponding spaces on the form, send to:

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5000 من الأم

Kosovo Albanians urge unity

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) — Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo joined yesterday in urging their leaders to stop feuding among themselves and form a united front for peace talks with the Serbian authorities.

The calls were made as more violence was reported around the restlessness Serbian province. The Kosovo Information Center reported shelling around the strategic town of Podujevo, on the main road to the rest of Serbia, which saw heavy fighting during the week between Serb forces and sep-

ararists ethnic Albanian guerrillas. The center also reported that the bodies of three Albanians shot dead had been found in various parts of the province. The official Tanjug news agency said a fourth body, shot in the head, had been found near Pec in western Kosovo.

The latest deaths brought to more than 100 the number of people killed this year, despite an October truce brokered by the West.

The pleas for unity came a day after two Kosovo Albanian leaders

told British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook they would attend talks on an interim autonomy deal for the rebellious province to be held in France by next Saturday. Two others said they needed more time to decide, as did Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

The political voice of Kosovo's 90 percent ethnic Albanian majority has been weakened by ideological disagreements and personal animosities, particularly between moderate "president" Ibrahim Rugova and Adem Demaci, who

represents Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) separatist guerrillas. A group of Kosovo Albanian students staging a hunger strike at the university to press the politicians to unite called yesterday for both Rugova and Demaci to come together to see them.

"We want them to get together, and we want them to come here and prove that to us," said a spokesman for the strikers, who began their action Thursday, adding that the best proof of this would be to come together.

The strike involves 51 students, matching the number of ethnic Albanians reported to have been killed in an alleged massacre by Serb forces in the village of Racak in January. Western monitors found 45 bodies.

The slaughter, the worst single incident since Serb forces launched a crackdown against KLA guerrillas 11 months ago, galvanized the international community into issuing both sides with an ultimatum to talk peace or suffer military strikes.



Noahlanhla Nkabinde, sister of assassinated United Democratic Movement leader Sifiso Nkabinde, leads her brother's coffin from his Magoda home yesterday. (AP)

Troops guard S. African warlord's funeral

By ALLAN SECOMBE

RICHMOND, South Africa (Reuters) — Some 1,000 troops and police stood guard at yesterday's politically-charged funeral of Sifiso Nkabinde, a South African warlord gunned down eight days ago.

The funeral in the KwaZulu-Natal town of Richmond proceeded peacefully with police manning roadblocks throughout the town. The murder of Nkabinde by

unknown hitmen on January 23 sparked fears of another chapter in the bloody political strife that has rocked KwaZulu-Natal in the past.

Self-confessed warlord Nkabinde was secretary-general of the newly formed United Democratic Movement (UDM), which he joined following his 1997 expulsion from President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress for allegedly spying for the apartheid government.

"We are feeling very sad. Sifiso was a very strong person in our family and the community. He will be missed," said a family member attending the funeral at Richmond's Magoda township, which was Nkabinde's stronghold.

Hundreds of UDM supporters from around South Africa joined several thousand of local supporters, gathered near Nkabinde's house for the funeral. His burial followed that of seven

ANC supporters in Richmond on Saturday. They were among 11 people massacred hours after Nkabinde's assassination in an apparent revenge attack.

Bantu Holomisa, president of the UDM, called for Richmond's community to work for peace.

Dozens of people have died since last year in political turf wars between UDM and ANC supporters in Richmond, nestled in the green rolling hills of South Africa's most populous province.

WORLD

in brief

Turkish PM: Kurd rebel chief back in Italy

ANKARA (Reuters) — Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said yesterday he believes Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan is back in Italy, the country he was reported to have left earlier this month. But Italian government sources quickly ruled out the possibility.

"It is to be excluded that Ocalan is in Italy or that he could return," one source told Reuters.

Ocalan was accompanied by security to the Italian border in mid-January and left aboard a private plane, he said.

"In all likelihood the head of the separatist organization is in Italy again," Ecevit was quoted as saying by the Anatolian news agency. The contradictory statements recalled a tense row late last year between the two NATO allies over the fate of Ocalan.

Russian experts to rebuild Iraqi electricity plants

BAGHDAD (AP) — More than 100 Russian experts are working to rehabilitate Iraq's main power plants in the first aid to the country's war-damaged electrical system under the UN-approved oil-for-food program.

The weekly *Al-Musawir Al-Arabi* reported Sunday that the Russians arrived in the past few weeks, and the Industry Ministry confirmed that they already are working on one of the main plants at al-Nasiriya, 310 kilometers southeast of Baghdad.

The paper said a June deadline was set for revamping two of the four turbines at the gas-driven plant — which could offer some relief to Iraqis during the summer when temperatures climb to over 50 degrees.

Berlin police arrest extremists at Hitler party

BERLIN (AP) — Police arrested 10 extreme rightists in Berlin early yesterday after breaking up a party commemorating the 66th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's accession to power.

Three police were injured during the raid on what police said was a "conspiratorial music event" attended by 300 extreme rightists in the northern district of Pankow.

Several of those arrested were in possession of neo-Nazi paraphernalia, illegal in Germany, police said.

Myanmar's Karen vow to struggle on

TABOTHUTHA, Myanmar (AP) — Despite the steady crumbling of their forces, ethnic Karen guerrillas marked the 50th anniversary of their rebellion against Myanmar's rulers yesterday by vowing to fight on in the face of overwhelming odds.

"If we do not achieve victory, then we will be subjected to enslavement and wiped out as a people. For this reason our war of resistance must continue," said Bo Mya, the graying, burly general who has led the Karen since the 1970s.

He said there are 8 million Karens scattered throughout Myanmar, although most estimates are 3-4 million, and that they support his cause. In recent years the Karen have been severely weakened. Other ethnic groups who were their allies against the Myanmar military have signed cease-fire agreements with the government.

MEP suspended over gay video, cannabis

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain's Conservative Party suspended a senior member of the European Parliament (MEP) from its Strasbourg group yesterday after airport security officers found cannabis and an explicit gay sex video in his suitcase.

Tom Spencer, chairman of the parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, paid an on-the-spot fine of £550 to customs authorities after the bag was opened at London's Heathrow Airport when he returned from France on Tuesday. Party chairman Michael Ancram will today invite the Conservatives' management board to order an inquiry into the affair by its Ethics and Integrity Committee, he added.

In an interview with the *Mail on Sunday* newspaper, Spencer, 50, acknowledged he was a homosexual despite a 19-year marriage to his wife Liz.

US jet attacks radar in N. Iraq

By MERT OZKAN

INCIRLIK, Turkey (Reuters) — A US jet based in southern Turkey fired a missile at an Iraqi radar site in the no-fly zone over northern Iraq yesterday, the US Air Force said.

The attack came a day after US jets from the Incirlik airbase struck six Iraqi air-defense sites around the city of Mosul in an attack that marked an escalation in conflict in the area.

The F-16 "acting in self-defense" launched a high-speed anti-radiation (HARM) missile at a radar system north of Mosul at around 3:20 p.m. Iraqi time, according to a statement released by the joint Turkish-US airbase.

"The radar system posed a threat to the F-16 and coalition forces conducting routine enforcement of the northern no-fly zone," the statement said.

A patrol group of more than 20 US F-15 and F-16 fighters, British Tornados, AWACS radar and control aircraft, and tanker planes had taken off earlier.

"All of the aircraft have returned and there was no damage to them," a spokesman at the base said.

US and British planes have enforced the air exclusion zone north of the 36th parallel since the 1991 Gulf War to protect the Kurdish population from attack by Iraqi government forces. A southern zone was also imposed to protect Shi'ites.

Following a four-day US and British military campaign against it in December, Iraq has repeatedly challenged warplanes flying over the no-fly zones.

In southern Iraq, US and British aircraft attacked two Iraqi communications facilities yesterday after an Iraqi warplane entered the country's southern no-fly zone, the US military said.

The eight American and British aircraft involved in the attack were undamaged, according to a statement issued by the US Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Turkey, torn between relations with its close NATO ally the US and a desire for normal ties with neighboring Iraq, supports the air patrols called Operation Northern Watch, but has expressed concern about the rising level of conflict.

Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said the fact that Incirlik was briefly put on alert on Thursday in fear of an Iraqi missile attack indicates how dangerous the tension with Iraq had become.

"For a few hours Incirlik was expecting an attack... this showed how serious is the danger that the region, Turkey, and Iraq are faced with," Anatolian news agency quoted him as saying.

A British aircraft carrier arrived in the Gulf at the weekend to take part in patrols of the southern zone.

India, US inch closer in marathon N-talks

By JOHN CHALMERS

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India and the US emerged upbeat yesterday from three days of talks on nuclear non-proliferation, though there was no sign of a breakthrough on specific issues.

The two sides said progress was made during the latest round of discussions, their eighth since India conducted nuclear tests last May, and they spoke positively of the need for "a new, broad-based relationship."

"Both delegations are satisfied with the outcome of the talks," they said in a joint statement after the closed-door meetings between teams led by Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

"The delegations believe progress was made in several of the subjects under discussion and

remain committed to achieving more progress in the weeks ahead."

President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee spoke by phone on Friday and the talks were extended by a day, feeding speculation that some reconciliation of Indian security interests and US non-proliferation concerns is in the cards.

But the two sides said they had discussed resuming bilateral military cooperation and had agreed to hold both an expert-level meeting in March on controlling exports of sensitive technologies and a ninth round of talks towards the middle of the year.

The tenor of their statement was also more optimistic than after previous rounds, which were clouded by India's insistence on its right to a minimum nuclear deterrent and the imposition of US economic sanctions after the nuclear tests.

Experts conclude: AIDS virus came from chimps

By MAGGIE FOX

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A chimpanzee named Marilyn has helped confirm that the AIDS virus first passed into people from chimps, researchers said yesterday.

They said genetic tests show the HIV virus is closely related to a virus that infects chimps but does not make them sick. It would have been first passed to humans when people butchered and ate chimps, as often happens in Africa.

Dr. Beatrice Hahn of the University of Alabama and colleagues made the discovery when analyzing blood and tissue samples from the lab chimp after she died at the age of 26.

There have been many competing theories about where HIV comes from. Some groups have even suspected that homosexual men were deliberately infected,

but most scientists believed it must have come from apes or monkeys.

Humans are the only creatures that can get HIV, which stands for human immunodeficiency virus. But apes and monkeys get a similar immunodeficiency virus or SIV.

Nonetheless, only three cases of chimpanzees infected with SIV had been documented.

When Hahn's team found the virus in Marilyn, they compared it to the other SIV viruses and to several strains of HIV.

The three SIV strains taken from the west African chimps, known as Pan troglodytes, and including Marilyn, very strongly resembled the three subgroups of HIV.

"This virus infects a primate species that is 98 percent related to humans. This may allow us, if done carefully and in collaboration with primatologists to protect this endangered species, to study infected chimpanzees in the wild to find out why these animals don't get sick — information that may help us better protect humans from developing AIDS," he said.

Last year, researchers said they had found the first known case of AIDS — in a Bantu man who died in 1959 in the Belgian Congo, now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

That is just where this sub-species of chimp lives.

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Does God wave a green banner?

They are the "Redwood Rabbis," quoting Torah and Talmud on sacred stewardship to dissuade a Jewish magnate from wiping out some of the world's most ancient forest groves. They are the "Noah congregations" of evangelical Christians plying conservative Republicans with biblical passages on why saving God's creatures from extinction is a religious responsibility. They are rabbis, priests and monks mailing out hundreds of thousands of action kits, lobbying in the halls of government and mobilizing their faithful for what many of them regard as the Earth's most important battle.

The environmental debate, long dominated by a secular conservation movement based on scientific rather than theological arguments, is being dramatically reshaped by the fervent forces of God.

Some activists call it the birth of a religious movement as significant as the battle against slavery: Churches, temples and synagogues across America are seizing the environment as a top-priority concern. They are armed with missionary zeal, moral authority, millions of troops and a simple but powerful mantra — "Creation care," or the religious mandate to lovingly tend God's garden and nurture all creatures within it. "You can't follow Catholic teachings without understanding we have a significant responsibility for God's creations, and we're called on to be stewards, not exploiters, of the Earth," said John Carr of the US Catholic Conference. "This is as old as St. Francis, and as new as today's headlines."

Not all agree. "Who needs to hear about trees?" one disgruntled congregant demanded of Rabbi Lester Schenberg last year.

The retort came after the rabbi devoted the High Holy Days sermon at his synagogue in Arcata, Calif., to the controversy surrounding the logging of ancient redwood groves in the area's Headwaters Forest.

SIMILARLY, among scientists, the mix of environmental concern with religious fervor worries many.

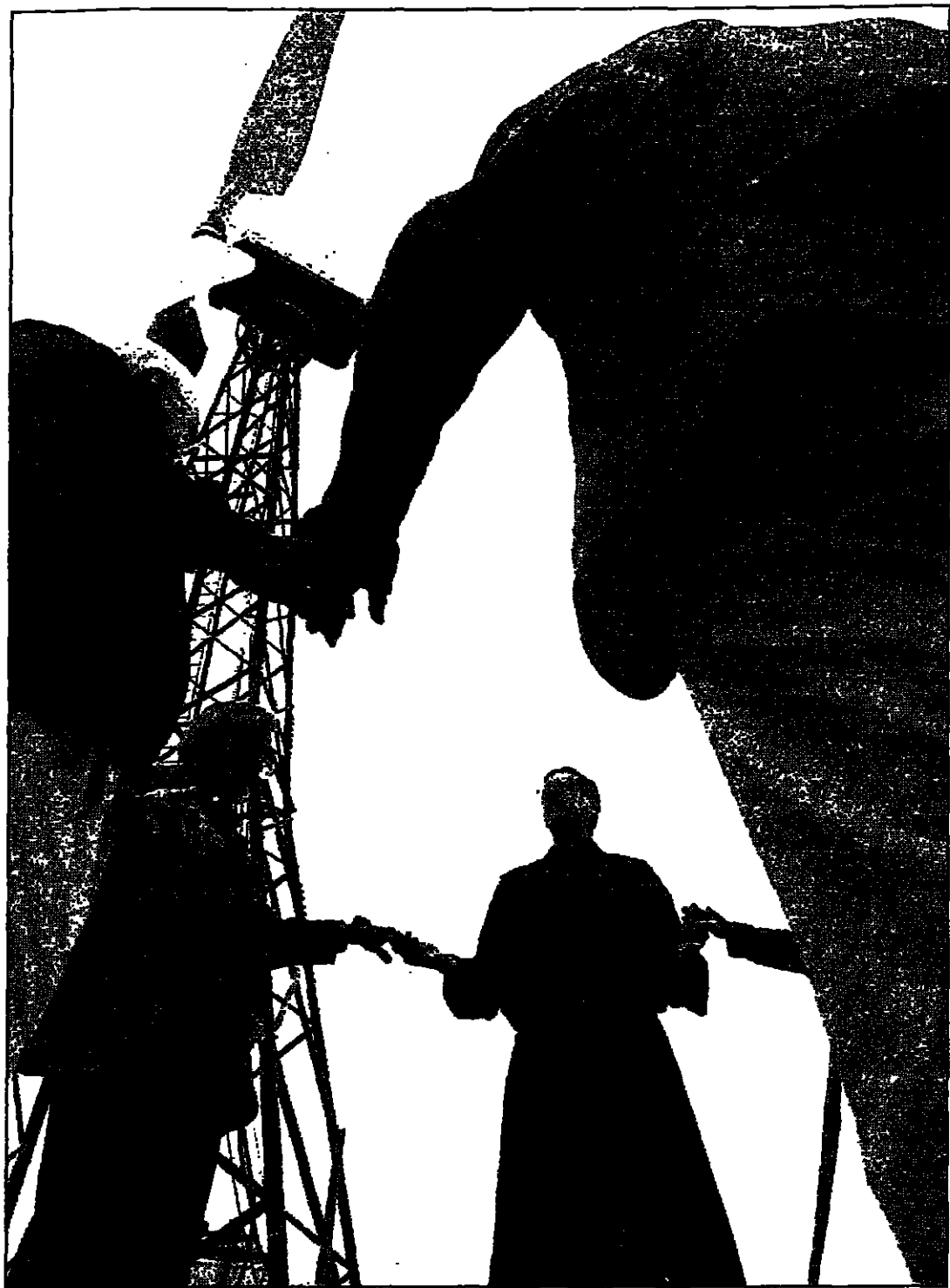
"The minute you turn [environmentalism] into an anti-technology religion you start killing people," said Bruce N. Ames, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Center at the University of California, Berkeley.

To attack pesticides and other toxic chemicals without adequate analysis of their impact could jeopardize the poor by raising the price of products known to promote good health, such as fruits and vegetables, argues Ames.

He was one of 46 prominent scientists who signed an appeal at the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil warning of "the emergence of an irrational ideology" opposed to scientific, industrial and economic progress.

Supporters of the movement would deny that sort of label, but their growth does represent a repudiation of one popular interpretation of the Genesis story — an interpretation some have used to justify relentless development as a moral and religious right.

The fervent forces of religion are moving in on the environmental debate, writes Teresa Wantanabe



'Creation care' in California: Members of several religious groups offer up an impromptu prayer.

"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the Earth," God instructed Adam, according to the Genesis account. The idea that man rightfully dominates nature still holds power among some faithful.

BUT a host of theologians are citing other biblical and scriptural writings to urge a greater humility and sense of responsibility toward the rest of God's creatures.

"We still espouse a God-given right of human beings to use the environment for their benefit... but that dominion involves a responsibility to care for it," said Barrett Duke, the Southern Baptists' environmental specialist. "[Creation] was not provided to us by God to

consume it into oblivion."

In the past, religious leaders say, they balked at environmental activism for several reasons.

Environmental priorities often seemed skewed in their view — focused on wetlands and wilderness rather than the poor and weak. In addition, they viewed the issue as a province of science and feared environmental activism could be construed as nature worship and "New Age" pantheism.

For their part, some environmentalists, such as Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope, say they once wrote off religion as a possible ally after accepting the arguments of such scholars as Lynn White, the late historian, whose essays blamed the Judeo-Christian tradition for elevating humans and devaluing nature. "We shall continue to have a

worsening ecologic crisis," White wrote in 1970, "until we reject the Christian axiom that nature has no reason for existence save to serve man." Pope now fully embraces religious activism.

The growth of religious-based environmentalism is reclaiming the environmental movement's original spiritual roots.

From St. Francis of Assisi, who urged a democracy of all of God's creatures eight centuries ago, to the spiritual writings of English preacher Isaac Walton, Sierra Club founder John Muir and Jewish environmentalist Anshur Waskow, the idea that nature reflects God's most sublime handiwork has a long-standing pedigree that is now being rediscovered with zest.

THE movement arrived as a global force last October, when

Harvard University brought together more than 1,000 top theologians, scientists and activists in what was billed as the largest interfaith dialogue on the environment in history. Muslims from 17 nations attended; the gathering of Shinto practitioners was the largest ever outside Japan.

Efforts of this sort "are bringing a whole fresh perspective into the environmental debate," said Peter Kelly of the liberal Environmental Information Center in Washington.

Religious involvement "means a possibility of marshaling the majority support [for the environment] we know is there."

As the movement grows, its members are influencing the language, the parameters and sometimes the outcome of environmental debates.

They are animating the global ecological lexicon with a poetic new language of the soul.

The atmosphere is not oxygen or carbon dioxide, but "God's breath of life." The seas are the "waters of Baptism." Ancient groves of redwoods and rain forests represent the Garden of Eden.

All living creatures, from the cuddly seal pup to the slimy razor clam, are "God's creations and unique entities that deserve respect for just what they are," says Santa Monica, Calif., Episcopal priest Peter Gwilliam Kreiter, who resigned from his parish in 1990 to work full time on the environment.

RELIGIOUS environmentalists are also pushing open the parameters of the ecological debate to questions of morality and social justice.

Does 5 percent of the world's wealthiest population have the moral right to endanger everyone else with industrial pollution? Is it ethical to place toxic waste dumps near the poor and politically disenfranchised?

Religious groups have played a significant role in the debate over the Headwaters Forest, where pressure from Jewish activists is credited with helping to prod Charles Hurwitz, the head of the company that owns the forest, into making a deal. Hurwitz is Jewish.

Similarly, in the debate over the Endangered Species Act, evangelical Christians are often credited with a hefty role in halting attempts to loosen the laws.

Republican leaders pushed hard to amend the law after winning the congressional majority in 1994, but conservative religious groups countered by lobbying Republicans in 1996.

Fueling much of the movement is the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, launched in 1993 to enact what executive director Paul Gorman called a "distinctly religious response to the crisis of environmental sustainability and social justice."

The partners include the US Catholic Conference, the Evangelical Environmental Network, the National Council of Churches and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. (Los Angeles Times)

Veggieville

The sign at the entrance to Moshav Amirim reads like a menu: shiatsu and reflexology, massage and movement therapy, holistic massage and healing, Chinese medicine and naturopathy.

It's that kind of place. Everyone in town specializes in something, though there's no sign of a plumber or electrician.

There's a biofeedback and stress-management expert, and a specialist in sensory and motor condition. A natural cosmetics person, a nutritionist, an osteopath.

There is a tarot-card reader. And even a synagogue.

What's not on the sign, among the 30 B&Bs and eight restaurants, the artisans and alternative-medicine practitioners, is "meat eater." That's the last thing you'd expect at the only completely vegetarian community in the country.

In a village where the dietary debate stretches from liberal vegetarianism to orthodox veganism,

mind if someone smokes in the room. But once we had a few families who came here and started barbecuing meat. We asked them to leave."

I asked his two teenage sons if they ever yearned to rebel, just a bit, just once, and sneak off to nearby McDonald's.

What Israeli kid wouldn't? They grinned. "Nope."

THESE moshavniks are eager to spread the good word. Indulging my curiosity, Shlomo set me up with a vegan breakfast one morning, a vegetarian the next.

At the Landmans', I got a passionate lecture on organic, vegan, salt-free, egg-

free, absolutely-no-animal-products-here living. I didn't get a laugh when I scanned the table and asked where the herring was.

But where they prepared was wonderful; I had planned on escaping to Vered Hagail for a slab of flesh for lunch, but I was staled until dinner.

The following morning, at

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

For a mad moment, I actually thought I could live without meat

from the permissiveness of those who say a bit of cow's milk is not a terrible thing to those who would die before eating an egg, there is, believe it or not, A Meat Eater.

Eating a fish kebab on Amirim, as I did, is tantamount to munching a pig's knuckle in Mea She'arim.

Amirim, southwest of Safed — perfectly situated between the Big Macs at Golan Junction and the famous steaks at Vered Hagail — is a picturesque haven dedicated to healthy living. There is no need for No Smoking signs here. A health club, or exercise room, would be ridiculously redundant.

There are no chubby children. Shlomo Lifshitz, who put me up in his cozy guest room, was not born into this way of life. The hardy, weatherbeaten farmer was a sickly youth, bent and wheezy, an asthmatic. He became utterly transformed once he adopted veganism.

Nowadays, no one thinks of these people as weirdos, but you can imagine what was said back in '58, when Amirim was registered as a sort of Veggieville. After years of austerity, Israelis hungered for meat.

Shlomo recalls going to milium with a sackful of organic oranges. The other soldiers thought he was nuts.

"They said the one thing you can get here is oranges, and what you bring is oranges?!" So I challenged them to a blindfolded taste test, and proved that I could pick out the organic oranges every time.

His guest-room kitchen is stocked with white sugar and — gawd! — even milk. I raised an eyebrow at him.

"Look, I don't insist our guests should be like me; I don't even

Dalia's Restaurant. Dalia Cohen covered a table with her own specialties. However, I was most intrigued by the pat of butter.

"I'm not a fanatic," she said sweetly, and forthwith, I was offered an egg. Here, too, breakfast was a joy — not merely from the eating of great food, but from the surge of energy I felt converging on me through the huge wall of windows. Even on a cloudy day, diners are dazzled by a flood of morning light, and an awe-inspiring vista.

For a mad moment or two, I thought I could actually live without meat... if it meant sitting at this table, and being served this food by this woman.

Not so Eliyahu Soudry. After Amirim's unsuccessful settlement by Yemenites in the early '50s, Moroccans were brought here in 1956; and they, too, left soon after. Well, all but Eliyahu and his two brothers.

When the vegetarians arrived in 1959, together with a charter specifying this as a strictly meatless zone, the Soudrys declined to move out. They refused, at first, to part with their live chickens and goats, and only after a while consented to stop grilling dead animals outdoors.

Eliyahu still harbors resentments: "I eat meat," he said hotly, "and they eat me." The Soudrys are old-fashioned, old-world folk in a thoroughly Western, progressive community, but there is a modicum of interdependence. Everyone here has his little cottage industry, and for the elderly Soudrys, it's pitot — whole-grain, yet.

Even Amirim's staunchest vegans pop by to buy them: as if to say, the principle behind the dispute is not Eliyahu or his pitot, but what goes in them.

Jerusalem Post & Gefen Books

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'We'll do tolerance, not talk it.'

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES - "We're here to honor a short Jew," intoned *Seinfeld* veteran Jason Alexander to open a gag-filled evening with a serious purpose.

The vertically challenged honoree was comic-actor-director-producer Billy Crystal, who, surrounded by fellow Hollywood stars and close to 900 fans, accepted the National Scopus Award of the American Friends of the Hebrew University (AFHU).

The dinner at a Beverly Hills hotel raised \$1.5 million, most of it earmarked for the Billy Crystal Endowment for Peace through Performing Arts program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The event also produced a cascade of nonstop jokes and one-liners, by the likes of Robin Williams, Whoopi Goldberg, Garry Shandling ("a tall Jew") and Alexander, mostly on Jewish themes and frequently unprintable.

The newly announced endowment program will bring together Jewish and Arab theater arts students at the Hebrew University for a year's course. Its graduates will go out and bring together Israeli and Palestinian schoolchildren and teach them about coexistence through theater, music and dance.

"These are just baby steps and the road will be difficult," said Crystal. "But we're not going to talk about tolerance, we're just going to do it."

Earlier, Crystal told a reporter that "starting with kids, that's your best chance. If they're going to throw rocks, it might as well be at critics."

There was no confirmation of

Robin Williams's deadpan announcement that the first Israeli-Palestinian co-production will be *West Bank Story*.

Crystal also announced that he is sponsoring a scholarship for jazz students at the Hebrew University, in the name of his late father, Jack Crystal, a pioneer New York jazz promoter.

In two separate financial initiatives, AFHU President Keith L. Sachs announced that Ned and Annette Lerner of Washington had pledged \$5.5m. to erect a new sports and aquatic center on the Hebrew University campus.

Sachs also said that AFHU is committed to raising \$350m. to help cover the university's annual deficit of \$30m. - \$50m.

In a long, applause-filled evening, the biggest hands went to three participants: Helen Greenfield, Crystal's mother, who pronounced the *hamotzi*, the blessing of the bread, over a giant-sized *hamotzi*; former boxing great Muhammad Ali, Crystal's personal hero, who served as honorary chairman of the event; and Kirk Douglas, the veteran actor and former Scopus recipient, recently slowed by a stroke, who conferred the Scopus Award on Crystal.

In an interview with the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal* a few days before the dinner, the 50-year-old Crystal spoke about his Jewish identity.

He and Janice, his wife of 28 years, are long-time members of Kehillat Israel, a Reconstructionist congregation, where their two daughters celebrated their bat mitzvas.

"I'm not a religious man, [but] it's in your gut, it's your heritage," he said.



Entertainer Billy Crystal poses with his Scopus Award with Hebrew University President Menachem Magidor (left) and president of American Friends of the Hebrew University, Keith Sachs (right).

In the interview, Crystal also recalled his stint as master of ceremonies at last year's Oscar awards. An Orthodox rabbinical group had earlier denounced the Reform and Conservative streams of Judaism as not Jewish, and in a

throwaway line most of the global TV audience probably missed, he declared, "I just found out I'm a Gentile."

Crystal does not regret the remark, or going public with his concerns about developments in

Israel and world Jewry.

"We should mind our own business?" he asked. "If you go to the Hebrew University, look at the names you're going to see. People who have donated their time, and millions of dollars,

Some very precious Stones

By ROBERT HILBURN

If MasterCard is looking for new subjects for its flashy ad campaign, here's a suggestion: A pair of old jeans for the guitarist... \$25. A colorful silk scarf for the lead singer... \$75. A pair of state-of-the-art microphones... \$250. Mick Jagger and Keith Richards: priceless.

And don't think that the Rolling Stones, who kicked off their first arena tour in two decades last week with a delightfully intimate and surprisingly provocative two-hour show before 17,500 fans at the Arena of Oakland in California, aren't fully aware of their worth.

Three decades ago, some people thought the Stones were obscene because of suggestive songs such as "Let's Spend the Night Together." Now some people think they're obscene because of their ticket prices.

That kind of price - up to \$300 a seat - isn't uncommon at major sporting events. But there's something a bit distasteful about the high-priced duets in rock 'n' roll - especially in light of the anti-materialistic ideals of the Stones' '60s generation.

Then again, the Stones were never that much for social commentary.

Jagger and Richards pretty much left the ideology to the Beatles and Bob Dylan. While the Beatles were suggesting that all you need is love, the Stones were just trying to get some satisfaction.

For most of the audience members questioned before the show here, ticket price was not an issue. "It's like the Super Bowl of rock," said one twentysomething fan.

There was more debate about Jagger's contention in his divorce battle with model Jerry Hall that the couple's 1990 marriage ceremony in Bali wasn't legal because correct papers were never filed. Hall, who recently filed for divorce amid reports that Brazilian model Luciana Morad was expecting Jagger's child, is reportedly seeking about a fifth of Jagger's estimated \$250 million fortune.

Some fans Monday felt that Jagger's stance was unseemly, considering that the couple have been together more than 20 years and have four children. Others accepted him as simply an incorrigible playboy. "Buyer beware," said one woman in the audience.

THINGS got off to a playful start at the Oakland concert.

After the house lights dimmed, Jagger, Richards, drummer Charlie Watts and guitarist Ron Wood's images appeared on the video screen above the stage. All four had the hard, grizzled look of old-time gunfighters as they marched menacingly down a backstage corridor to the stage.

When they reached the end of the corridor on the video, they suddenly appeared on stage and went right into a raucous version of "Jumpin' Jack Flash," with Jagger adopting the high-energy tone that he would assume most of the evening.

The band may not be even close to reliable anymore on record, but they remain masters of the stage.

Almost 30 years after the Beatles broke up, the Stones not only keep filling concert venues but also continue to warrant our attention. How many bands from 1965 can even make that boast in today's stagnant rock climate? (Los Angeles Times)

'To be or not to be'

By HELEN KAYE

Iconoclastic director/playwright and actor Steven Berkoff has driven newspaper editors to distraction in the last couple of months. When he wasn't onstage at the Haifa Theater rehearsing *Hamlet*, which opened Saturday, then he was gone, talking to the press in his favorite pastime. When he works, he works.

Don't look for a costume drama or heroic attitudes in this production. *Hamlet*, Berkoff writes in his program notes, "is actually a ridiculous play" about a man who swears to kill his stepfather and then doesn't have the will to do it. What grabs us, then, is "the massive sweep of the play and the always penetrating truth of Hamlet's words."

Typically, this *Hamlet* is a minimalist production, like the magnetic *Coriolanus* that came to the Israel Festival a couple of years ago. The set is chairs. The actors are always on stage, watching, listening and involved, even if they're not speaking.

Doron Tavori plays the title role. Rania Israeli is Gertrude, Ruti Goldberg is Ophelia, Polonius is played by Shmuel Wolf. Dori Parnes translated and composed the music.

In Haifa they say that Berkoff is so impressed with Parnes that he's invited the composer to collaborate with him on an as yet unnamed project. Berkoff is already gone and won't be here for the Wednesday premiere. He's flown to Tokyo to do his *Shakespeare's Villains*, the tongue-in-cheek Shakespeare parodies he did for International TheaterFest in December.

This production is similar in concept to the one he brought to Haifa in the early Eighties in which he both directed and starred. Doing *Hamlet* was so vast for him that he subsequently wrote the autobiographical *I Am Hamlet*.

He's also done Kafka's *Metamorphosis* and the



Doron Tavori plays the title role in 'Hamlet.'

Aeschylus *Agamemnon* at Haifa as well as another Kafka, *The Trial*, at Habimah. Actors either loathe or love him. None are indifferent, and all say that working with him is an intense and eventually rewarding experience.

Berkoff was born in 1937 to Polly and Al Berks, formerly Berkovitch. He grew up in the East End of London and studied mime with Jacques Le Coq in Paris - its rigorous disciplines inform his work to this day.

Those were the heady '60s, and Berkoff has paid tribute to the experimental theater groups which influenced his work, like

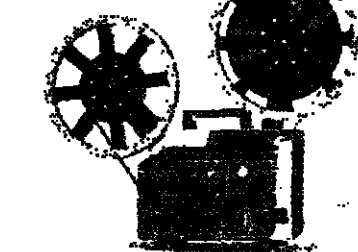
The Living Theater and La Mama. He debuted as an actor in 1965 with Edward Albee's *Zoo Story*. In 1968, he formed his own London Theater Group that premiered *Metamorphosis* at the Roundhouse Theater.

He was a jobbo (hooligan) in Stanley Kubrick's 1971 *A Clockwork Orange*, the first in a series of film baddies that help finance his theater work. Counting his adaptations, Berkoff has written some 10 plays, including *Kvetch*, which won the Evening Standard Comedy of the Year award in 1992.

These days, Schellenberger needs more time for musical activities outside his orchestra position. "I can't be there all my life. I plan my time very carefully now so that I can progress in my own way. It's not easy to play as many concerts when you are 55-60 as when you are younger."

Schellenberger also has his own disc business. "I invested a lot of money in it and I hope it will work." When he tries to shift his mind off music he likes to ski, read books and "have lots of fun."

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

Stepmom is yet another melodrama in which the onset of terminal cancer is used to teach the characters lessons and make the selfish ones nice. And even in the context of this highly dubious genre (which includes

STEPMOM

Directed by Chris Columbus. Screenplay by Gili Lavigne, Jessie Nelson, Steven Rogers, Karen Leigh Hopkins and Ronald Bass. Hebrew title: *Ima Baragel*. 126 minutes. English dialogue. Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested. With Susan Sarandon, Julia Roberts, Ed Harris, Jena Malone.

recent films like *Marvin's Room*, *One True Thing* and *Girls' Night*) this picture rings pretty false. It's like a TV movie-of-the-week with high production values and big-name stars.

Directed by Chris (Home Alone) Columbus, whose work has all the spontaneity and live dramatic pulse of the average Kodak commercial, *Stepmom* stars Susan Sarandon and Julia Roberts as, respectively, the former wife and current live-in girlfriend of Ed Harris, a distracted lawyer. Two kids are also involved: the breakup of the marriage; thoughtful 12-year-old Anna (Jena Malone) and expressive little magician Ben (Liam Aiken).

The early parts of the film focus on the tension between Isabel (Roberts) and Jackie (Sarandon), and the effect that tension has on

the children.

Anna, especially, resents Isabel's presence in her life and is quick to make her feelings known. Jackie herself could clearly do without this gorgeous fashion photographer cuddling with her ex and palling around with her offspring, and in the film's first act she does everything she can to make things unpleasant for the younger woman. Jackie doesn't trust Isabel, doesn't approve of the way she handles the kids, etc.

The conflict up to this point rests on a fairly annoying set of stereotypes: Sarandon is the nurturing PTA mom who lives in her rambling country house, sleeps near her sewing machine, and packs perfect bag lunches; Roberts is the sexy career girl who's too discombobulated to wake up in time to get the kids off to school, wears black leather pants and of course does not know how to cook.

But things get worse. Not only are the characters uninspired types, so is their situation. (The scriptwriters stick so closely to their chosen formulas, one has the sense that a stopwatch might be used to gauge when the next catfight/hugfest will come) And even as the two women are busy alienating each other in the movie's introduction, we have a fairly clear sense that something - probably an incurable illness - will have to intervene to make them come around, learn to live with and possibly even like one another. And sure enough... In the meantime, of course, there are plenty of opportunities for the cute little boy to overact and for the ailing mom to cut loose and lip-synch Motown with her loved ones - to say nothing of the endless-seeming chances to indulge in tearful heart-to-heart talks.

Sarandon tries her hardest here and her poised performance almost manages to make the film seem something besides the sodden drizzle that it is.

Roberts looks good and comes across as likable, though one



Julia Roberts is a photographer in 'Stepmom.'

feels her limitations as a dramatic actress even more forcefully than usual. And as Anna, Jena Malone is convincing, albeit in the slightly studied way of aspiring (coached, prodded and hovered over) Hollywood pubescent. None of them, though, can overcome the script's rote approach to suffering, and none of them can speed up the soft weeping and long goodbyes that take up the film's last, interminable half hour, and finally make *Stepmom* a trial to sit through.

Oboist shifts keys

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Some musicians might feel that being a principal with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra is their musical Everest, but German oboist Hansjorg Schellenberger, 50, decided he wanted to widen his musical horizons.

On a cool September evening outside the Jerusalem Khan Theater, at the end of the inaugural Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival, Schellenberger talked about the major shift in his career that in recent years has added conducting to his other musical activities.

Later this week, he'll conduct the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in Schubert's Fifth Symphony and the Dvorak "Wind Serenade" and will play the solo in an oboe concerto by Haydn.

He's been principal oboe with the BPO since 1980, has more than 40 CDs to his credit and, in 1991, he founded the Haydn Ensemble in Berlin.

"Playing an instrument was great for many years," he says. "I'd been working like hell but now that I have three kids, I want to pace my life in a different way."

Schellenberger compares the Berlin Philharmonic which he entered with the one he plays in today. Back then, it was an orchestra with "a very clear style, very homogeneous, compact and with a late romantic sound." But once Claudio Abbado took over, after the death of Herbert von Karajan, "he brought a different approach to the orchestra. Its sound is clearer and we have added very good young players in the orchestra. Over the last 10

years, we've changed half the musicians.

"We play to 99% capacity. There's a huge waiting list for our subscription series."

The orchestra, he says, is basically an enlarged version of any family - with "intrigues, fights, envy and whatnot. There's always an ongoing group dynamic."

These days, Schellenberger needs more time for musical activities outside his orchestra position. "I can't be there all my life. I plan my time very carefully now so that I can progress in my own way. It's not easy to play as many concerts when you are 55-60 as when you are younger."

Schellenberger also has his own disc business. "I invested a lot of money in it and I hope it will work." When he tries to shift his mind off music he likes to ski, read books and "have lots of fun."

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Budget compromise

The Knesset today is expected to rescind one of its most outrageous decisions of recent years - the shameful 5 percent wage increase that 13 Knesset members, including three deputy ministers, last week decided to award deputy ministers. Not content with simply upping these officials' salaries, the MKs decided to make the increase retroactive to 1998, thus awarding the deputy ministers, and all other senior officials linked to this wage level - some 1,200 in all - an extra NIS 35,000 each.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu described it best when he blasted the decision as a "robbery of the public coffers" and slammed the MKs responsible, mainly from the Shas Party, for "taking for yourselves." Netanyahu rightly demanded a revote from outgoing Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, and this is due to take place today. Given that Shas leader Aryeh Deri has also criticized his colleagues' actions, it seems clear that this blatant example of legislators dipping their hands into the public's pockets, as MK Ehud Barak put it, will thankfully be reversed.

What is not yet clear is whether the government will succeed in pushing through the Knesset by tomorrow morning - the last day of this session - its budget for 1999. Until now, the budget, which traditionally is passed by December 31, has been held up because of coalition demands which have absolutely no connection to the country's economy. The final non-economic hurdle was overcome last week, when the Religious Services Law was passed. Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism), had held the budget hostage to this law, suspending deliberations in his committee on the budget and economics arrangements bill, as he waited for the government to meet its commitment to the haredi and other religious parties and introduce legislation aimed at blocking non-Orthodox representation on religious councils.

Apparently, as far as Ravitz and his fellow Orthodox MKs are concerned, harming the national economy is of less importance than Orthodox men having to sit around a table with Reform and Conservative Jews, and in some cases, heaven forbid, Reform and Conservative women, discussing religious council spending or where to build a synagogue or ritual bath.

The importance of the state budget cannot be overstated. The budget is a major tool for generating private-sector growth, checking public-sector demand, and maintaining price stability.

Moreover, a budget-less Israel would seriously dent our hard-won stature among foreign investors, who are prone to have reason to see in Israel yet another emerging market, rather than the developed economy which many contend we are.

And since January 1, due to this lack of a budget, the government has been prohibited from making investments, hiring people, funding research and development, or contracting new infrastructure projects. Planning ahead is always difficult, but without a budget the government is actually prohibited from doing so.

The coming elections have undoubtedly affected - for the worse - the 1999 budget deliberations, as politicians from all parties basically sought, however harsh it may sound, to buy votes. The most striking example is the Public Housing Law, which passed in the Knesset at the end of last year. This law seeks to sell off public housing, at a minimal price, to long-term tenants. It gives such renters, particularly those who live in the center of the country or Jerusalem, a handsome real-estate windfall. The cost of this largesse in 1999 stands at some NIS 2.1 billion, and is not included in the budget framework. If the implementation of this law is not postponed, then the budget is already breached. Netanyahu, who is also acting finance minister, initially opposed this law, but with May 17 moving ever nearer, he recently announced his and the coalition's support for the law, without suggesting an alternative NIS 2.1b. cut elsewhere to balance the budget books.

Yisrael Ba'aliya's Knesset members, meanwhile, are linking their support for the budget to a demand to build 5,000 more rental-housing units, at a cost of some NIS 1.5b., to replace the apartments being sold off to the long-term tenants. Without Yisrael Ba'aliya, the government does not have a majority. And so it goes. The National Religious Party is demanding extra money for bypass roads and other construction work in the territories, while the other coalition partners also have their demands - which Treasury officials have calculated as totalling another NIS 1b.

Given that this government has already fallen, there is little incentive for the opposition to oppose the budget just for opposing's sake. For the good of the economy, there is much to be said for the opposition working with the government to pass a sensible and fiscally responsible 1999 budget so that, no matter who wins the elections, a proper economic framework will be in place for the new government to inherit.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO ROOM FOR REFORM

Sir, - Rabbi Marmor misleads his readers (Jan. 29) when he accuses the Orthodox establishment, or as he disparagingly calls them, the "Hahakhamim," of monopolization and "Holy protectionism."

The Reform movement is not so interested in reinterpreting the Torah and thus challenging the Orthodox copyright as Rabbi Marmor implies, as they are in discarding the Torah altogether.

The main issue that separates the Orthodox and Heterodox movements is the divinity of the Torah. If the Torah is divinely inspired then no group, Orthodox or otherwise, is

empowered to change it. According to this line of reasoning the Torah is the embodiment of God's wisdom. To pervert and distort that wisdom in order to satisfy a personal agenda is understandably nothing less than blasphemous.

On the other hand, if the Torah is not divinely inspired, then any movement can make any arbitrary and capricious changes it wants, or discard the whole business altogether if that's what the agenda demands. In this context, Rabbi Marmor's arguments are more readily understood.

The question remains, why does

the Reform movement continue to mislead the public by fighting to achieve parity with the Orthodox in its interpretation of the Torah when it views the Torah as an anachronism?

The issue is not pluralism with respect to the Torah, it's abandonment. Perhaps the answer is that not to do so would be bad for marketing. Most Jews implicitly understand that Judaism sans Torah is not modified Judaism, it's another religion.

Whatever else Goell finds wrong with Bibi, the main concern for Israel is its security and survival. Therefore I ask Goell to once again rethink his priorities and vote for Bibi.

Kiryat Sefer.

BIBI WILL WIN AGAIN

Sir, - Yosef Goell, "Anyone but Bibi" (January 25), voted for Bibi Netanyahu in the last election to prevent ceding the Golan to Assad's Syria, calling this a security nightmare.

Most Israelis feel that nothing has changed since then and that Bibi is the best candidate for prime minister in the May 17 election.

Whatever else Goell finds wrong with Bibi, the main concern for Israel is its security and survival. Therefore I ask Goell to once again rethink his priorities and vote for Bibi.

Beersheba.

TRUDY GEFEN

MAISH RUBIN

A DANGER TO DEMOCRACY

Sir, - As was so correctly pointed out in The Jerusalem Post editorial of January 22, an inordinate number of generals continue to enter Israel's political arena, bringing with them a "growth of opportunism" and "the collapse of ideology."

To add to those already entrenched in the "system," such as Ehud Barak, Avigdor Kahloni, Ephraim Sneh, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Ori Orr, Bichram Ze'evi, Raphael Eitan, Yitzhak Mordechai, and Ariel Sharon, we have waiting in the wings to storm the portico Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Meir Vilnai, Uri Shohar and Yosef Peled! And who knows how many more military "good ol' boys" will decide to join the ranks marching towards political power.

This fact should be sending shivers up the spines of supporters of the democratic system. History teaches us that a very real danger to democracy exists when a coterie of generals enters politics. One finds that after entrenching themselves within the system, these gentlemen lose no time in filling other positions of power and influence with cronies and family members, thereby clearing the path for the collapse of democracy and the establishment of military dictatorships or some other form of anti-democratic regime.

The onus is upon every responsible and concerned citizen to do his/her best to ensure that Israel's delicate democracy will be able to withstand and survive this onslaught by what can only be called a "cabal of generals."

Kiryat Ono.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On February 1, 1934, The Palestine Post reported on the festive opening of the Jewish Farmers' Conference and on the prospects for planting of fruit trees in the country.

50 years ago: On February 1, 1949, The Palestine Post reported that President Truman had given

full diplomatic recognition to Israel and Transjordan. The US had also asked the Security Council to reconsider Israel's application for UN membership, originally made on November 29, 1947. This time the application was expected to be approved.

25 years ago: On February 1,

1974, The Jerusalem Post reported that the first phase of disengagement with Egypt had gone smoothly. Egypt had thinned out its forces and announced that the clearing of the Suez Canal would be followed by the development of the waterway to accommodate bigger ships.

Alexander Zivli

OPINION

Say it isn't so

BRUCE MADDY-WEITZMAN

Dear Minister Sharansky, I'm writing to you as a fellow immigrant Zionist, a "hyphenated Israeli" who chose, as you did, to link my future to the state of Israel, with the assumption that Jewish national renaissance was compatible with universal liberal values.

My choice was made from the comfort of the West. Yours, of course, was made of much greater stuff. In an age of anti-heroes, you were one of the authentic Jewish heroes of the 20th century.

As you struggled against the seemingly invincible Soviet empire, I grieved for your suffering, and admired your wife's dignity and dedication to your, and our, cause. Your release on that cold winter day in Berlin, in those oversized pants hanging loosely on your emaciated frame, brought tears of joy to my eyes.

Upon your arrival here, I rejected the cynical remarks of those

the admittedly complex issues of the peace process, you conducted yourself merely as another narrow-minded right-wing nationalist, incapable of viewing the Palestinian side as even a potential partner to the compromises that are essential to our future in this land.

Only with the Wye Memorandum, which you, and defense minister Yitzhak Mordechai, helped negotiate, did one detect signs of greater understanding. Can you now accept holding its implementation hostage to the narrow political considerations of our prime minister? Or was your heart not really in the agreement to begin with?

ON MATTERS of religion and state, you repeatedly bowed to the Orthodox political establishment, whose primary interest has been turf, budgets, and political influence, at the expense of underlying Jewish values.

An open letter to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky

who immediately assumed that you had been "captured" by the religious Right.

Only a few years later, I rejoiced over the seemingly miraculous opening of the gates to massive immigration from what is now the former Soviet Union. I remain convinced that the aliyah wave of the last 10 years has been overwhelmingly beneficial for the state, and decry the media stereotypes and inter-group tensions which have ensued.

I sympathized, as one democrat to another, with your entry into the political arena as head of an immigrant party. I cringed when you were greeted by boos in Kikar Rabin two years ago at the memorial service for our slain prime minister.

But your behavior in government has disappointed me terribly. On

What about your own constituency, which is the primary victim of the Orthodox establishment's monopolization of personal status issues? How will we attract another million immigrants to this country if this is allowed to continue? What about our relations with Western Jewry?

What about the millions of Israelis who have become alienated from their Jewish identity because of the self-anointed guardians of Judaism?

What about the norms of proper government? You promised to resign if even 10% of the charges in the Bar-On Affair were true.

The prime minister under whom you have continued to serve has led a sustained attack against everything associated with the "establishment" - the defense and security services, the legal system, acad-

Misreading history

YOSEF GOELL

The brunt of the critical reaction to Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron's shocking equation of Reform Judaism's "responsibility" for the rapid pace of Jewish assimilation with the Nazi Holocaust was directed at that horrific comparison.

But equal concern should be directed to the chief rabbi's intentional misreading of the causes of modern assimilation, and of Orthodox Judaism's abject failure to address that problem.

It is a regrettable sign of the times - and of the growing haredization of the mainstream Orthodox rabbinate - that Bakshi-Doron, who is known for his personal moderation, has chosen to descend to the vulgar level of the haredi press. These gutter papers consistently violate the memory of the Holocaust by referring to the secular majority of Israel as Nazis and "kapos."

Perhaps the best explanation for this perverse insistence on flinging terms associated with the Holocaust at Jewish opponents is the need of the haredi world to veil its profound sense of guilt at the behavior of its own rabbinical leaders on the eve of and during the Holocaust.

Let me make it absolutely clear that the Holocaust was perpetrated by German Nazis and their East European Slavic collaborators against the Jews and that it is a profound perversion to accuse any Jew of responsibility for that evil.

It is essential, however, that those of us who survived learn from that calamity as to which of our leaders failed to see it coming and to counsel reasonable and urgent responses

to defend their followers. Those who failed as leaders forfeited any legitimate claim to future leadership of the Jewish people in an extremely dangerous century.

The signs of the future Holocaust were already evident in the rise of modern, violent antisemitism at the turn of the century and in the murderous nature of the mass pogroms

which followed World War I. The undeniably correct responses to the impending catastrophe were mass Zionist aliyah to the Yishuv in Palestine on the one hand, or mass migration to the West, and especially to North America, on the other.

Most Jewish leaders did not respond to the mounting threat in time, although some Zionist leaders, especially Ze'ev Jabotinsky, did. It is the everlasting infamy of the East European Orthodox rabbinates, however - both hasidim and misnagdim - that they fought both sides, tooth and nail. There is a mountain of heart-rending evidence of such rabbis threatening innocent members of their flocks with excommunication and ostracism if they even dared contemplate migration in either direction.

Some of these rabbis, once the



eme, the media. His right-hand man, during much of his tenure, was Avigdor Lieberman, who has made no secret of his contempt for those who stand in his way - i.e., the "elites."

Are you not concerned that Lieberman speaks in his master's voice? Doesn't the patriotism and love of Zion which brought us here, and our concern for Israel's future, demand that we not keep silent in the face of these cynical, politically motivated attacks which undermine the foundations of modern democratic society?

Mr. Minister - Natan - it is time for you to speak up, both to your own constituency, and to the public at large, against an unfit, untrustworthy prime minister and his lack-

eyes, who are indeed endangering our country.

Democracy without leadership, without statesmanship, without an underlying commitment to the values which underpinned your triumph over the KGB gulags, will inevitably result in a corrupt, pseudo-democratic, strong-man type of regime and an ignorant, chauvinistic and fragmented society. We cannot afford such an outcome, not even 10% of it.

My friends tell me that I'm kidding myself to expect this kind of leadership from you. Say it ain't so.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Moshe Dyan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv University.

No to a Russian veto

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

coming threat of missile attack by rogue states.

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Douglas Feith shows in a paper released on January 22 by the Center for Security Policy that as a matter of international law the treaty is dead. Gone.

And yet so thorough is the liberal enthrallment with arms control that the Clinton administration actually strengthened and broadened the treaty with its 1997 agreement bringing in Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, in addition to Russia.

Moreover, this is an administration that in 1995 predicted that no ballistic missile threat would emerge for 15 years and that only months ago was denying any urgency to countering a missile attack.

On August 24, Chairman Hugh Shelton of the Joint Chiefs of Staff assured Congress in writing "that the intelligence community can provide the necessary warning of the indigenous development and deployment by a rogue state of an ICBM threat to the United States."

Unfortunate timing for Gen. Shelton. Not a week had passed before North Korea shocked the world with a test of its Taepo Dong I missile, a three-stage rocket with intercontinental potential - exactly

the kind of threat the CIA had said was 15 years away.

AFTER that, even Democrats could no longer deny the obvious.

Defense Secretary William Cohen announced the change in policy: The administration finally supports building a territorial missile defense for the US. Cohen went so far as to say that if the Russians refuse to amend the ABM Treaty, which, as written, prohibits such defenses, the US might just have to withdraw from it.

(The treaty explicitly provides for withdrawal on six months' notice if "extraordinary events" make adherence a threat to a signatory's "supreme interests.") North Korea is the "extraordinary event"; preventing the obliteration of Los Angeles is the "supreme interest."

And still, the old theology dies hard. After Cohen made his statement, the White House began backtracking furiously.

It repeated the hoary mantra that "the ABM Treaty remains... a cornerstone of strategic stability." And it disclaimed Cohen's threat to withdraw from the ABM Treaty, saying that the US would only deploy what would be permitted under amendments to the ABM Treaty agreed to

by Russia.

Why? Why in God's name does the US need Moscow's permission to defend itself against a catastrophic threat from North Korea or Iran?

Because of a piece of parchment that is legally dead? Because the Communist-dominated Duma, which opposes American foreign policy on everything from Iraq to Kosovo, will be cross?

What standing does Russia, of all nations, have to dictate how we defend ourselves? Russia is the principal supplier to Iran of precisely the missile and nuclear technology that could one day turn New York into Hiroshima.

President Bill Clinton promptly dispatched Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Russia to ask them to say yes to an American ABM system. They instead gave her a resounding nyer. She smiled and said that a delegation of experts would visit Moscow to continue the dialogue.

The only purpose of such a mission should be to politely tell the Russians to go jump in the lake.

After having admitted that the ICBM threat is real and that we need to defend ourselves, the Clinton administration cannot possibly allow Russia to stop us from doing what it has just said we must do. Or can it?

(Washington Post Writers Group)

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Hard Right

Voters All Over Take the Wheel From Conservatives

An Identity Crisis
In the U.S.

By RICHARD L. BERKE

WASHINGTON WITH great confidence and some justification, Republicans have long proclaimed that theirs is the party of ideas. So it seemed quite a turn when Representative Steve Largent, in the Republicans' response to the State of the Union address this month, found himself having to pose this question: "What does the party of Lincoln and Reagan stand for today?"

The question confounds Republicans at every gathering. At a meeting of the national party the other day, Jim Nicholson was re-elected chairman not because he had a fresh agenda. Rather, his backers persuaded party members that — as the person who nominated him put it — it was not his fault that "we lack a coherent message."

Even former Speaker Newt Gingrich conceded in a speech earlier this month that after his party recaptured the House in 1994, "we were not able to create a second agenda."

For a generation, Republicans have been the tribune of a resurgent American conservatism. Republicanism not only brought electoral success, it changed the way Americans thought of their government and of themselves. There were divisions in the party and tensions between social and economic strains of conservative thought, but nobody doubted that Republicans had an agenda or that the party's world view was ascendant.

Now, quite suddenly, the definition of conservatism is up for grabs. With the budget balanced, crime down, the welfare rolls, divorce rates and single motherhood shrunken under a Democratic President, the line between Democrats and Republicans can be hard to find. So Republicans find themselves defined by impeachment, by their argument that the President represents a nation in moral decline and

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A Matter of Trust
For Europeans

By ROGER COHEN

BERLIN IF the waning years of this decade have produced a dirty word in Europe, it is perhaps "conservative." The right-of-center ideology that played an important role in stripping European states of vast industrial holdings, advancing the market economy and facing down the former Soviet Union with medium-range missiles has fizzled.

Ten years ago, conservatives were in charge or on the rise in most places in Europe, but today there is hardly any country where that is true. In Germany, France, Britain and Italy, moreover, parties of the right are in disarray, casting around for a persuasive electoral message at a time when such traditional backbones of conservatism as "the nation," "the family," "the church" and "the Communist enemy" have changed or lost their meaning and the moderate left has occupied the political center.

Learning from Bill Clinton, center-left politicians like Prime Minister Tony Blair in Britain and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in Germany have seized the political initiative with white-toothed smiles and cleverly spin-doctored images of modernity, economic efficiency and social compassion. In response, amid peace and moderate prosperity, the right has found itself clutching at straws.

"All these right-wing parties cried 'Victory' as the Berlin Wall came down, but they did not see that they had lost the force against which they defined themselves," said Pascal Perrineau, a French political scientist. "And they have been unable, since then, to come up with a message that does not seem regressive, nostalgic, outdated."

In Europe, the right has two essential incarnations: the free-market ideology once embodied by Margaret

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Reprising Zero Tolerance

History Shows That Tough Talk Is Cheap

By DAVID JOHNSTON

WASHINGTON WHEN New York City Police Commissioner Howard Safir announced a tough new plan this month to seize the vehicles of drunk drivers, he might have had a talk first with Dick Weart.

A decade ago, Mr. Weart was the ombudsman for the Federal Government's zero-tolerance drug crackdown. From his desk in Washington, he fielded frantic telephone calls from customs inspectors all over the country who had just turned up a few marijuana seeds or the end of a marijuana cigarette in a car or boat.

"I was on the phone from seven in the morning to seven at night," he recalled. "There were times when I was pulling my hair out." Every case, it seemed, had extenuating circumstances.

Such crackdowns have been highly popular with politicians and law-enforcement officials, but after the the klieg-light hype, the programs are usually quietly dumped or throttled back.

The Federal Government's drug program, a model of the genre, was announced in 1988 by the Customs Service Commissioner, William von Raab. "There will be no mercy," he vowed. And for a while, that seemed to be true. His inspectors, sometimes with the help of the Coast Guard, confiscated thousands of cars and boats from people caught with small amounts of drugs, regardless of whether they were the owners.

But within 18 months, the program had been revised three times, evolving into a relatively lenient approach in which people were cited and released without any confiscation of their property. (Federal agents still use forfeiture laws, but mostly against large-scale drug dealers and money launderers.)

It was a chaotic time, Mr. Weart recalled. "The simplest incident could evolve into something very serious," he said. One incident involved a college student who had driven his father's Ferrari to a party in Mexico,



The border crossing at San Ysidro, Calif., was one of the main targets of the zero tolerance push a decade ago.

As an anti-drug measure, confiscating cars and boats sounded like a good idea. But it turned out to be a huge headache.

he recalled. Trying to reenter the United States, the student realized that the small amount of marijuana in the car might be enough to get it seized. So he tried to evade inspectors by roaring through the Customs entry lanes. "It matured into something very serious," Mr. Weart said, including charges of marijuana possession and endangering a Federal agent.

When applied to boats, the policy seemed to exaggerate the disparity between the seriousness of the crime and the severity of the punishment. Within weeks of the introduction of the policy, authorities had seized the Ark Royal, a \$2.5 million yacht, after finding less than one-tenth of an ounce of marijuana on board.

NOT long afterward, Federal agents confiscated the country's premier research vessel, the Atlantis II, owned by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, because a tiny amount of marijuana had been found in a crew member's shaving kit. The boat was not formally returned to Woods Hole for two months. And a multi-million-dollar vessel owned by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California was seized after dogs found a small amount of marijuana hidden in the berth of a low-ranking crew member. Those and other high-profile seizures brought as

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The Purpose of Sex
It may weed out bad
mutations, suggests
a new report.

By Nicholas Wade

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Earthquake Zone
Where sticks are
stronger than
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Ideas & Trends

Why Sex Works

By NICHOLAS WADE

It is hard to see why economics is called the dismal science when the title is so much better deserved by evolutionary biology.

For biologists, the human race is being loaded down with bad mutations, the more so as medical advances thwart the scythe of natural selection from culling the weak.

Another thing that bugs biologists is sex. Like James Thurber, they have long asked why it is necessary. Yeah, babies, but you could make them much more easily by parthenogenesis — virgin birth — the mode of procreation favored by stick insects and other sensible creatures. When it comes to sexual intercourse, the biologists stand foursquare with Lord Chesterfield, who advised his son that "the pleasure is momentary, the position ridiculous and the expense damnable."

The biologists' two interests, doom and sex, have intersected in a new report that shows there is indeed a purpose to sex: to sweep away the bad mutations that would otherwise drag us toward terminal degeneracy.

Two British biologists, Adam Eyre-Walker and Peter D. Keightley, came up with an ingenious way of estimating the number of bad mutations that have flowed in and out of the human genome during the six million years since we and chimpanzees stopped calling each other cousins. They found that at least 1.6 and probably 3 mutations per person must have been eliminated in each generation.

This is an amazing number when you consider that a mutation can only disappear through a "genetic death" — when its owner, or child or grandchild, dies without progeny.

"That implies three genetic deaths per person!" said the population geneticist James F. Crow of



A lucky winner in life's biggest non-regulated lottery.

the University of Wisconsin in a commentary on the new study. "Why aren't we extinct?"

Evidently we manage to beat the odds somehow or other. Last week Service Corporation International, a major operator of funeral homes and cemeteries, forecast meager earnings because of reduced mortality rates, a grim outlook that resulted in a 44 percent tumble in its stock price.

What magic draught cleanses us of bad mutations without demanding one life for each?

Now you begin to see how sex works. If we bred like stick insects, our children would have the exact same faults as their parents, knowledge of which would destroy all respect between generations.

In sex, however, life's biggest non-regulated lottery, one's genes first get shuffled among themselves and a random assortment is then cut into someone else's deck. Bad mutations get left on the cutting room floor, or if they combine in a fetus, their synergistic effect will probably cause a speedy death, eliminating many mutations at once.

The fact is, the gamble of sex beats death. By not acting like stick insects, we escape extinction. Maybe those evolutionary biologists aren't such dismal killjoys after all.

Shoring Up Satan, Closing Limbo

By JOHN TAGLIABUE

It seemed like a season for traditionalists. First came the Vatican declaration last November that in celebration of the third millennium of Christianity believers will be offered a wider array of indulgences, ways to earn amnesties from various forms of punishment in the afterlife.

Then there was the announcement just before Christmas that Padre Pio, the celebrated Italian mystic and healer who is a hero of traditionalist Catholics, would be beatified this May, the final step before canonization. (Pope John Paul II has made 270 saints, more than any other pope in history, and has beatified almost 800 people.)

And last week the Vatican published a revised Catholic rite for exorcism, the ancient ritual for expelling demons, reaffirming for doubters that the Devil does indeed exist and is very much at work in the world.

More is coming. Later this year the Vatican will publish an updated martyrology, the list of the 10,000 or so recognized saints and martyrs.

All these practices are subjects of debate among Catholics and between Protestants and Catholics. Since the Second Vatican Council, which concluded in 1965, the church has sought to shift emphasis from some of them. Liberal Catholics are uneasy about religious customs that appear to reflect older, legalistic approaches to achieving salvation. The Protestant Reformation disdained the cult of saints, and many Catholics are uncomfortable with the idea of indulgences, which appear to offer a shortcut to heaven. Most of all, though, talk of driving out demons evokes for many images of "Rosemary's Baby" and "The Exorcist" rather than profound spiritual values.

As the papacy of 78-year-old John Paul II enters its third decade, the Vatican appears to be pursuing divergent goals. The mandate of the Second Vatican Council to bring the church up to date has been taken seriously. But at the same time, John Paul clearly rejects wholesale change. He clings, for example, to the notion of priestly celibacy just as firmly as he bans even discussion of the ordination of women.

Yet the Vatican, under his aegis, continuously enacts lesser changes designed to make ancient customs compatible with the spirit of the times. The Vatican struggles, experts say, to take into account the sensibilities of a widely varying membership in broadly differing societies.

In recent decades, Catholics have faced wrenching changes, large and small. "Whatever happened to Limbo?" older Catholics may ask. The church once taught that it was the place where unbaptized infants went when they died. It's still around, goes the new thinking, but it's empty. It is now believed to have been the state

of natural bliss enjoyed by the just, like Abraham and Moses, who died before the Ascension of Christ to heaven. The Ascension brought them to heaven as well, and the babies got there too.

Many familiar symbols of devotion, like the scapular, once worn around the necks of millions of schoolchildren, are much less common now. Pieces of wool encased in plastic with iconic pictures, scapulars were believed to confer spiritual benefits much like indulgences. Some varieties were supposed to insure salvation if a person died wearing it.

But exorcism, rather than fading away, has seen a revival among a segment of Catholics. Though ancient and widespread, the practice of exorcism and belief in demons are, for many Catholics, more science fiction than reasoned spirituality. The vast majority of Catholic theologians, said Michael W. Cuneo, a Fordham University sociologist, regard exorcism as "utter foolishness." The Vatican itself, in proposing the revised rite, took pains to draw Christians away from notions like those spread in popular literature and films like "The Exorcist," while at the same time holding firm to belief in devils.

"I am not a P.R. man for the Devil," said the Rev. John Navone, a Jesuit theologian at the papal Gregorian University in Rome. "But belief in higher spirits is pre-Judaic and pre-Christian."

Partly, the Vatican's reaffirmation of the De-

vil and exorcism may be designed for the church in developing countries, where belief in spirits is widespread. "Christ's victory is power over those spirits to protect people, so you don't have to live in fear," said the Rev. Thomas Reese, editor of America magazine in New York. "In that case, declaring Christ's victory over Satan is a sign of hope rather than fear."

Yet even in countries that view themselves as sophisticated, like the United States, there is a flourishing market for exorcism. "People are looking to be delivered of demons of alcoholism, demons of marital infidelity, demons of depression," Professor Cuneo said, "and exorcism winds up the quick-fix solution."

SIX years ago, there was one official exorcist in the American Catholic church; now there are 10. In addition to official exorcisms, many such rites are performed clandestinely, he said, often by priests "with traditionalist leanings." And the renegade exorcists are every bit as vexing to the Vatican as are attacks on belief in spirits.

Last week the Vatican again urged bishops and priests not to confuse psychological suffering and possession, and to seek medical help while at the same time offering spiritual consolation. "You rule out the possibility of an organic problem, of hysteria," Professor Cuneo said, "and this is consistent with a long line of Vatican thinking."



Exorcisms are still performed to expel demons. In Bosnia, a believer shortly after the rite.

An Identity Crisis in U.S.

Continued from Page 9

must therefore be removed. Republicans have found that Americans are leery of a party that appears to be pressing for moral cleansing — whether it is about Mr. Clinton, abortion or the rights of homosexuals — and may even be offended by the notion.

"The reason Republicans seem so headless is because they have this enormously important issue in front of them — the impeachment of the President — but they don't want to acknowledge that it is their most important issue," said David Frum, a conservative theorist in Washington. By contrast, he said, Democrats have an advantage because Mr. Clinton's pragmatic politics fit the public mood. "This is a very conservative age, but not in an ideological sense," Mr. Frum said. "And right now the Republicans are a party of reform and change and the Democrats are the party of the status quo — and he benefits from that."

Democrats have embraced Mr. Clinton's popular notion that people do not want grand schemes as much as practical solutions to smaller problems. (It is no accident that the man who wants to succeed Mr. Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, recently unveiled a slogan of his own, "practical idealism.")

That leaves conservatives competing to reinterpret Republicanism, to try to make it popular again. The struggle is complicated because, as the 2000 campaign gets underway, Presidential candidates are molding their appeals to the narrow base that is important in the primaries while Republicans in Congress are trying to fashion their own post-impeachment agenda.

Like Democrats, Republicans are a big, messy, contradictory coalition. While many in the party agree on a broad set of issues, the challenge is settling on which to emphasize. Here are three approaches:

Moralists

Social conservatives like William J. Bennett, the former Education Secretary, and Gary Bauer, a prominent Christian conservative who is running for President, think the party should be unabashed about emphasizing its outrage at Mr. Clinton's behavior and what they see as the nation's moral decline. In polls, Republicans are consistently viewed as having higher ethical standards than Democrats.

But the danger is that beyond hard-edged conservatives, many voters wince at the notion of politicians dictating moral behavior. After years of accusing Democrats of being wedded to big government, Republican proponents of a moral crusade risk appearing as if they are espousing government as a means of enforcing a moral code. Mr. Clinton and his advisers are mindful of polls showing that over the last two decades, more and more Americans — Democrats included — have come to favor a more limited role for government.

"Impeachment and the trial of the President seem to be their unifying theme right now," said Paul Beck, chairman of the political science department at Ohio State University. "But there is this curious contradiction: Republicans are saying, 'Let's get the Government out of your pocketbook and wallet but into your bedroom.' The public may be thinking, 'Who are you to tell me that the standards of morality should be?'"

Traditionalists

These Republicans believe that the party should stick to its bedrock issues — shrinking Government, fighting crime and cutting taxes — while neither em-

phasizing nor ignoring touchy social issues like morals and abortion. They argue that the party has faltered not because these issues are no longer winners, but because the party has not pushed them aggressively enough.

"The key for us now is to lay out a clear agenda that focuses on our core issues: tax cuts, smaller government, welfare reform and strong defense," said Representative David McIntosh of Indiana. "The problem we had in the last election was it looked like we were abandoning those ideas to simply focus on an impeachment vote." Mr. McIntosh warned: "We shouldn't be drawn into fights that the President wants. In health care, he will always have a better-sounding proposal if we accept his premise that the Government should run the health care system."

In their State of the Union response, Mr. Largent, of Washington, and Representative Jennifer Dunn of California infuriated many moralists who are indignant about Mr. Clinton's conduct; the lawmakers played down the scandal and underscored the bedrock Republican issues. "Our country is not in crisis," Ms. Dunn said. "There are no tanks in the street."

Innovators

They argue that Republicans cannot simply repeat the party's old rallying cries. "Anybody who says that the Republicans should run on welfare reform or on balancing the budget or having a middle class tax cut has a backward view," said Jeff Bell, a conservative thinker. "You have to move to a daring set of issues."

That means the party cannot be timid about playing on Mr. Clinton's turf. From Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin to John Engler of Michigan, many Governors have sought to play down divisive social issues. Gov. George W. Bush of Texas, considered the leading Presidential contender should he run, has tried to put a friendly face on traditional party issues with the term "compassionate conservatism."

Greg Mueller, a conservative public relations operative, cited polls suggesting that the party can broaden its appeal among blacks, Hispanics and Catholics by pushing tax breaks for sending children to private schools. "A lot of Republicans are chicken to talk about Social Security, education and health care, where these have the potential to be positive issues for Republicans," Mr. Mueller said. And they are too quick to cede those matters to the White House, he said. "There's a mentality that we don't have the bully pulpit."

These competing strains are reminiscent of what Democrats endured in the 1970's and 1980's, when the outspoken left wing prevented its leaders from settling on an agenda they could ride to the White House (except for Jimmy Carter's victory in 1976).

Douglas Sosnik, one of Mr. Clinton's closest aides, argued that confusion is inevitable for any party that does not have a President to rally around. "No leader has earned the right to tell the rest of the people in the party what it means to be a Republican," he said. Many Republicans say the same thing — and pin their hopes on the prospect that their party will be rescued by a popular, charismatic standard bearer in 2000.

That may be wishful thinking. The last two Republican nominees, Bob Dole and George Bush, failed to sell a new definition of conservatism. The man who succeeded was Bill Clinton.

In Europe, a Matter of Trust

Continued from Page 9

Thatcher in Britain and the more socially conscious conservatism of the German Christian Democrats, among others.

At the root of the problem for both, it seems, lie two victories that seemed to assure the right's future. One was over Communism and the division of Europe, the other over the excesses of state-run economies.

As a result of these triumphs, the specter of Marx and the magic of the market lost their potency as conservative rallying cries.

The effect has been devastating. In Italy, the Christian Democrats, long the main center-right party and bastion of American-backed efforts to block Communism, simply disintegrated. Elsewhere, the right abruptly found itself in a world dominated not by strategic blocs but by the economic forces of globalization. And Europeans, in large numbers, reacted to global free-market forces not with outright enthusiasm but with calls for safeguarding and even reinforcing their social security systems.

No matter that these systems are often too expensive to survive indefinitely in their present form. Politically, a message that pays has been one that says: Rely on us to protect you from cutthroat capitalism, displaced factories and global storms. In a Europe of high unemployment, the left has proved nimble in purveying this slogan than the center-right.

"The fear of an unstoppable global economy dislocating societies has been hard for the right to exploit because it has generally stood for free markets and non-interference," said Jonathan Eyal, a British analyst. "And the new center-right left quickly occupied the broad election-winning ground: acceptance of the market tempered by social concerns."

Deep changes in the nature of European societies have also militated against the right. Appeals to the family and to tradition often seem outmoded, or in need of recasting, in countries where single-parent homes have become commonplace, divorce rampant, church-going more unusual and a multicultural environment the norm. European conservatives, like their American counterparts, have denounced such changes but the response from the European electorate has been muted.

The German weekly Die Zeit recently observed that "the middle-class entrepreneur of the 1950's who wanted his children to inherit his company regarded the linkage of business and family values as something quite natural." That attitude, it added, no longer prevailed for "the owner of a bunch of shares." And so, "the links between the market and morality, between ownership and middle-class values, which were embodied by the Christian Democrats, are strained and ready to burst."

So, too, are the links that long bound the right to patriotic visions of the European nation state. The fact is that the introduction of a common European currency, the euro, this year marked the biggest voluntary and peaceful surrender of sovereignty by a group of states in history. Center-right parties are still grappling with the enormity of this shift. For what should a conservative message be in a Europe where nations exist in name but rather less in substance?

An answer appears elusive. In France, no less than seven right-wing political groupings are putting forward candidates for European Parliament elections later this year. They include three pro-European movements, two

anti-European centrist groups and two nationalistic platforms from the now-splintered extreme-right National Front. "It's mad," said Pierre Lellouche, a Gaullist.

But the madness reflects real differences. Some Gaullists like European integration; others equate it with the end of "la France." That is a very basic divergence to accommodate within a single party.

On the extreme right, both Jean-Marie Le Pen and his challenger, Bruno Mégret, call for the rebirth of "national values" and attack "the disappearance of European races through general miscegenation." But such messages, while they rousing 15 percent of French people, do not win elections. They help divide the right.

In Germany, where the 16-year era of Helmut Kohl ended last year, Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Party has been organizing a petition to contest the Schröder Government's plans to introduce new citizenship laws that would allow many of the country's seven million foreigners to become Germans. Behind the petition, a nostalgia for a certain idea of the German nation clearly lies, one where only German blood gives the right to nationality. Also evident is real hostility to the ideas of what the right calls the "multicultural left."

But, again, it is far from clear that this sort of initiative can win what Mr. Eyal called "the critical broad church of the center." For Germany is now a mixed society, like it or not.

So, what to do? Clearly, in Britain and Germany the thrust for a change after long periods of right-wing rule has played a big role in the popularity of center-left parties. But the success of the center-right Prime Minister, José María Aznar, in Spain, after years of socialist rule suggests there is nothing irreversible about the right's decline.

David Willets, a Conservative member of the British Parliament, said the key to success lay in underlining the themes of freedom and prosperity against the "more regulated economy and nanny government" put forward by Mr. Blair.

Mr. Lellouche, the Gaullist, said the right must renew its leadership and unite around the themes of toughness against crime, strong defenses, skepticism about immigration and economic deregulation.

IN Germany, conservatives have suggested all sorts of potential vote-winning themes: personal responsibility, ecological concern, the preservation of a classical education as an important value, resistance against modernization as a dogma, a radical economic reform favoring initiative over social protection. But for the moment, the Christian Democratic Party is plainly at sea.

Still, one powerful example of a successful conservative society exists: the Bavaria fashioned by Edmund Stoiber, the leader of the Christian Social Union, the Christian Democrats' sister party. There unemployment is 7 percent, compared to a national average of more than 10 percent, high-tech companies are thriving, prosperity is widespread and Mr. Stoiber never tires of extolling beer-swilling "Bavarian traditions."

Jan Ross, a German journalist, has called this society a fusion of "laptops and leather shorts." It may well be peculiarly Bavarian. But Horst Telschick, who served as national security adviser to Mr. Kohl and is now on BMW's board, said the message could have a wide appeal.

"What Mr. Stoiber has done is convince people they are safe at home and fit for the world," he said. "He has turned Bavaria into a modern high-tech state, while keeping its values. People feel secure, prosperous and ready to look outward: that can win elections."

مكتبة الأصل

The World

One Defense Against Quakes: Build Homes of Wood

By ANDREW POLLACK

AMERICANS viewing the devastation caused by Monday's earthquake in Colombia might be tempted to knock on wood. Wood-frame houses, the type generally built in the United States, can stand up far better in quakes than the outwardly solid masonry homes that crumpled so quickly in Colombia.

But even wooden homes can fall down, and each new earthquake adds to the understanding of what more could be done to make residential housing more quake-proof. Indeed, the last major tremor to hit an American urban area, the Northridge quake of 1994 in the Los Angeles area, prompted a re-evaluation of building codes when wood-frame buildings suffered far more damage than had been expected.

"Northridge showed they don't perform as well as we thought," said Bob Reitherman, executive director of California Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering, a consortium of eight schools. In that and other quakes, he said, "some of them are falling down and all of them are getting more damage than we thought."

The haunting pictures from Colombia, where the official death toll was near 1,000 and could go much higher, showed wide swaths of row houses in the town of Armenia flattened to rubble. But nearby, seemingly identical houses remained standing. Surprising as that may be to an ordinary newspaper reader, that phenomenon is familiar to any earthquake expert, since it demonstrates the capriciousness of earthquakes. Two identical homes can be affected differently based on the behavior of the soil beneath them or on how they are hit by the earthquake shock waves.

Still, home construction makes a big difference. In Colombia and other developing nations, homes are often made of unreinforced masonry, adobe or mud, and there are few residential building codes. Homes in wealthier parts of Armenia, presumably with better construction, did better.

"That disaster was due to poor construction, not to the size of the earthquake," said George W. Housner, emeritus professor of earthquake engineering at the California Institute of Technology. "That earthquake, had it occurred near Pasadena, would not have been a disaster at all."

In general, wooden frames tend to do better in quakes because they have some flexibility. "If the structure doesn't give during the earthquake then it tends to be completely destroyed," said Tom Heney, a geological sciences professor at the University of Southern California and director of the Southern California Earthquake Center. "Ductility is really the name of the game."

But merely having a wood frame isn't enough, experts say. In Kobe, Japan, which suffered a huge quake in 1995, many older houses with wooden frames collapsed because they were not built to withstand lateral forces and had extremely heavy roofs made of traditional Japanese tiles.

To better withstand a quake, experts say, homes need to have what are known as shear walls, which are normally made from plywood fastened between the upright wooden beams to help withstand side-to-side forces. The frame of the home should also be bolted to the foundation to make sure it doesn't slip off. And upper floors and roofs



In Armenia, Colombia, blocks of homes collapsed but adjacent blocks survived — evidence of both the fragility of unreinforced masonry and the capriciousness of earthquakes.

should be securely attached to floors below.

"If built to code properly, the house should go through a sizable earthquake fairly well," said Do Y. Kim, director of engineering at the Institute for Business and Home Safety, a Boston-based nonprofit organization set up by the insurance industry.

BUT Mr. Kim also said that while the code seems to be enforced well in California, there are other parts of the country in which builders frequently get waivers, even though earthquakes have occurred there in the past. These, he said, include the New Madrid zone in and near Missouri, and the area around Charleston, S.C.

The competition to keep home costs low is clearly a reason, though some experts insist that quake-proofing adds only 5 percent or

so to the cost of a newly built home. Richard Cardoza, director of architectural production at Kaufman and Broad, the largest homebuilder in the West, said that complying with the latest Los Angeles earthquake codes might add between \$1 and \$2.50 per square foot to the price of a home, which translates into an extra \$2,000 to \$4,500 to the cost of a typical new three-bedroom home of 2,000 square feet.

Existing homes can also be retrofitted, at various costs. Some older masonry homes in Los Angeles have had steel rods put through them from wall to wall between stories. But simple and inexpensive steps like strapping the water heater to a wall can also make a big difference, Mr. Kim said.

Still, even adherence to building codes is no guarantee. For one thing, the codes are generally designed to prevent loss of life by

keeping buildings from collapsing. They are not meant to prevent all damage.

Moreover, each earthquake seems to show that the existing code is inadequate. "Each time we have an earthquake we learn more," said Dr. Heney. Building codes have been strengthened in light of the Northridge quake, which had a magnitude of 6.7. Mr. Reitherman said that of 10,193 buildings deemed unsafe to occupy after that quake, 91 percent were made of wood.

TO be sure, most of the 25 deaths from building damage (there were 61 deaths overall) were at apartment buildings, particularly two- or three-story structures in which the first floor was used for parking. In such buildings, the bottom floor was not sturdy enough to support ones above once shaking began.

But single family homes still suffered more damage than expected. The Institute for Business and Home Safety estimates the insurance industry has paid \$15 billion in claims, far higher than it had foreseen.

Mr. Reitherman's consortium recently embarked on a three-year, \$6.9 million study, most of it financed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to find ways of designing safer wood-framed buildings without substantially raising the cost.

Mr. Reitherman said that most wood-framed buildings are designed by architects rather than structural engineers. And tools for analyzing the forces on wood-framed structures are not very advanced. That is because good as wood might be in quakes, it is steel and concrete, used in the expensive commercial buildings, that get all the engineering attention.

Plumbing the K.G.B. Files

For Russia, Bumbling Agents and Friends in High Places

By TIM WEINER

THE President of the United States springs the nation's top Communist from jail. Behind the President's back, America's top spymaster swaps secrets with the Soviets. The Secretary of Commerce bares his soul to Moscow's station chief in Washington. Meanwhile, Federal agents are hunting down Communist file clerks and coatholders.

A new book, "The Haunted Wood: Soviet Espionage in America — The Stalin Era" (Random House) offers a new look at what communist spies were really up to in this country before and during World War II. It is a staggering account of sloppiness and stupidity among the Soviets and their American agents.

And it underscores how much the most powerful people in Washington freely gave Moscow when faced with a common enemy in wartime. On balance, it appears that Moscow gained more from its open alliances with the United States than from its secret American underground.

The authors of "The Haunted Wood," Allen Weinstein, the founder of the Center for Democracy, a Washington foundation, and Alexander Vassiliev, a Russian spy turned reporter, hoped for revelations when they burrowed into the archives of the chief Soviet foreign intelligence service, the K.G.B., which granted (and then withdrew) access in exchange for cash from Random House.

Writing the history of war and diplomacy without secret intelligence files is like building a house without a blueprint. The angles go awry, the foundation tilts. With the files, history can outstrip any novelist's imagination.

But not all was revealed. If the late Alger Hiss indeed spent a decade as a Soviet agent, as is now generally thought by cold-



Representative Samuel Dickstein.

war scholars, what did he actually do? No answers came; they may reside in the still-closed files of another bureaucracy, the Soviet military intelligence service. The files that were opened showed that Soviet espionage in the United States was clearly less than masterful under Stalin.

"At present we don't have any agents" in Washington began one plaintive message from the Soviets' New York station. One Soviet station chief in Washington spoke no English, which somewhat limited his ability to move in American society.

Purges and paranoia in Moscow put some of the best operatives in prison or the grave. The Soviets did eventually acquire networks of agents in the United States, some of whom thought they were working for the Communist Party of the United States and

its boss, Earl Browder, and some of whom realized that their true masters were in Moscow. The agents penetrated the Justice Department and the State Department.

The files show that they even had an agent in Congress: Samuel Dickstein, who represented a swath of Manhattan's Lower East Side and was generally useless to his Soviet paymasters.

But unlike their British counterparts, the American agents of the international communist conspiracy were "as sloppy as you can get," Mr. Weinstein noted in an interview. Most of the Americans working for the Soviets in the United States eventually were done in by their own clumsiness or betrayed by their colleagues. The main reason they survived as long as they did was incompetence (or nonexistent) American counterintelligence before Pearl Harbor.

ARGUABLY, they did more for Moscow than any spy network. President Franklin D. Roosevelt granted diplomatic recognition, which gave the Soviets embassies to use as spy stations in the United States. And he gave amnesty to Mr. Browder, who had been jailed for passport fraud, and was a valued spy for Moscow.

Then, like so many others, he was purged by Stalin. (Mr. Browder's downfall alienated a key American spy for the Soviets, Elizabeth Bentley, who turned informer. Her testimony led to a confession from another Russian agent, Whittaker Chambers. Chambers later testified as the key witness in the Government's perjury prosecution of Mr. Hiss. In intelligence, as in biology, everything is connected to everything else.)

William J. Donovan, the head of the Office of Strategic Services, the wartime spy organization, undertook deep exchanges of intelligence with the Soviets, sometimes exceeding his instructions from Roosevelt.

He even returned to the Soviets a crucial code book captured by Finnish spies (but he



President Truman and William J. Donovan, the nation's top wartime spy, in 1945.

secretly kept a copy, which eventually helped the United States decode Soviet cables and helped break the Soviet spy rings).

And Henry A. Wallace, Roosevelt's vice-president and Truman's Commerce Secretary, had a remarkable breakfast with the Soviet station chief in Washington in October 1945, offering insights and seeking support for his political ideas. The plotting conspiracy was so obvious, the author said, that such a rendezvous had been caught, he might well have been jailed.

But by 1946, almost every member of the Soviet spy network recruited in the United States before and during World War II was out of business. They were disaffected, or

they had defected. They awaited arrest or had already been arrested. They were exiles and suicides.

WHILE the House Committee on Un-American Activities was setting up shop, the Soviet station in Washington was a shell. Its spies reduced to civilian coverings, the intelligence services were nowhere.

Mr. Chambers put it best in describing his testimony against Mr. Hiss. In a letter to a friend, he said, "It was all for nothing, that nothing had been gained except the misery of others."

Ideas & Trends

Probing Disease Clusters: Easier to Spot Than Prove

By GINA KOLATA

THE trouble began when Bobbie Gallagher noticed that her 2-year-old daughter was behaving strangely, obsessively spinning and scrupulously setting her toys in rows. Alanna Gallagher turned out to have autism, a rare neurological disorder of unknown cause.

So did Alanna's little brother. So did about 40 other children who lived in the Gallaghers' town of Brick, N.J., near the seashore.

The parents in Brick were alarmed. On average, 1 child in 500 is autistic; in the town, the figure is about three times that.

But what does it mean? Does Brick have toxic chemicals in the water, pollutants in the air?

The problem, scientists say, may be impossible to resolve. It was yet another instance of a phenomenon that makes many statisticians shudder. It was a disease cluster — the Boy Who Cried Wolf of epidemiology.

Every time a disease cluster turns up, communities worry, scientists scramble for a cause and, as in the new movie based on Jonathan Harr's 1995 book, "A Civil Action" (Random House), about a leukemia cluster in Woburn, Mass., lawyers start suing. Yet over and over again, despite years — sometimes decades — of efforts to link the disease with a cause, scientists usually come up empty handed.

It can sound paradoxical. Here are unusual numbers of people with a disease. Toxic chemicals are everywhere, and many of them cause cancers and other diseases in laboratory animals. Why should it be so hard to find a cause?

Some disease clusters have been successfully linked to toxins: Coal miners got black lung disease; asbestos workers got mesothelioma. Workers cleaning containers where polyvinyl chloride was synthesized, breathing in fumes, got cancer of the blood vessels of the liver until machines replaced them.

But these examples of proven cause and effect are the rare exceptions, statisticians say. And they have two things in common: The chemical exposure was enormous, and the disease was extraordinarily rare.

Most disease clusters are very different. Autism, breast cancer and leukemia are fairly common. And even when there does seem to be an unusually high incidence of a disease, the search for a chemical basis usually turns up minute amounts of toxic substances that also are found in other places where there are no clusters. In other words, linking the suspect chemicals to the disease can be very hard. It can also be difficult to know if a cluster is anything more than a chance occurrence. And chance is hard to ignore.

Clusters will naturally appear even when events occur at random, said Dr. Persi Diaconis, a statistician at Stanford University. "There was a famous example of this when bombs were hitting London during World War II," he said. "People were sure they were targeting individual places and they made up the most elaborate scenarios" to explain how the bomb targets were selected. But in the end, when the pattern was analyzed, the bombing turned out to be random.

ANOTHER problem is how to draw the boundaries of a cluster.

Dr. James Robins, a statistician at Harvard University's School of Public Health, said it is a natural tendency to draw boundaries around groups of events to make clusters happen. If there are three children with cancer on a single block, you may draw your circle around the block — making that a cluster — rather than around the town as a whole, which may show no cluster.

Say you do find a cluster. Unless you identify, say, black lung or mesothelioma, statisticians say, the next question is: How can you decide if the cluster was caused by blind random clumpings of cases, with no environmental cause, or by a toxin in the environment?

Why would only one town have a disease cluster, some experts ask, while other places with the same pollutants in the air or water do not? One possibility might be an unidentified chemical in a mix of pollutants that is unique to the town. But that, of course, raises questions of how to find it.

Finally, there is the indirect exposure problem. If there is no direct link between chemicals and a disease, the tendency is to look for other exposures. Could the



Bobbie Gallagher with children, who have autism. At least 40 other children in Brick, N.J., have the disorder.

fathers, for example, have had their sperm affected when they were growing up? Or could the mothers have been exposed to chemicals during pregnancy? Some statisticians say that if people look hard enough and slice the data enough ways and an association will emerge. What it means is another question.

Others are optimistic. Suzanne Condon, the director of the bureau of environmental health assessment at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, said that in an unpublished study her department found that in the Woburn case, women who drank water from certain wells when they were pregnant were more likely to have children who developed leukemia. "We believe this sheds a lot of light on what happened in Woburn," she said. W.R. Grace, which was accused along with Beatrice Foods of dumping chemicals in a way that allowed them to reach the water supply, paid \$8 million into a settlement fund. Both companies agreed to finance an expensive cleanup plan.

The Massachusetts health department, however, warned on its Web page, "Findings should be interpreted with caution due to the limitations of conducting statistical analyses on small populations."

THAT may not be what people want to hear, statisticians concede. "People — and I, too — find it hard to accept that it is just random chance that brought this horrible consequence," said Dr. David Freedman, a statistician at the University of California at Berkeley.

Some statisticians ask whether it is worthwhile to keep pouring money and effort into searches for clusters and searches to explain them.

"The question is, at what point do you say we've seen too many like this?" Dr. Robins asked. "Huge amounts of money" have gone to study disease clusters where the suspected cause was tiny amounts of chemicals, he added, and so far, "nothing has come of it."

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Tough Talk Was Cheap

Continued from Page 9

much attention to zero tolerance as criticism. But notwithstanding the problems, Mr. Weart said, the program sent a strong message. It pleased criminal justice conservatives, but enraged scores of motorists and boat owners — not to mention civil libertarians — who made the same criticisms that are now being raised about New York's drunk-driver policy. They complained that such Draconian steps entangle law-enforcement and court personnel in time-consuming wrangles when they could be better deployed elsewhere.

Since the nation's earliest years, Federal authorities have used forfeiture laws to seize the property of people who violated Customs and tax laws, said Sandra Guerra, a professor at the University of Houston Law Center. Later, they were used against people who made liquor during prohibition, she added. But in applying the law to drunk drivers, she said, officials may be imposing a punishment disproportionate to the crime.

Other experts said the crackdown

Taking vehicles was more trouble than it was worth.

might never make it through the New York courts. "I think people who drive drunk and hurt people should be punished," said Steven L. Kessler, a New York lawyer and an expert on asset forfeiture in the state. "Unfortunately, the Administrative Code as written doesn't permit it."

Mr. Safir defended the program, saying that seizing the vehicles of drunk drivers means taking a weapon out of the hands of potential criminals. "I can't tell you how many times I've been in the scene where somebody was killed, and the drunk driver had been arrested three or four times before," he said. "Nothing is perfect, nothing is going to solve the problem totally, but we believe this is a very good start."

The policy would be administered "reasonably," he said, and exceptions will be made when drunk drivers are operating someone else's car.

"I think there are lots of people who will think twice about drinking and driving if they think they are going to lose their car," he said. "I really do."

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Networks' Football Bet Yields Must-See TV for Men

By BILL CARTER

It was the most expensive deal in the history of network television — and the riskiest, carrying predictions that it might come close to bankrupting the companies that agreed to it.

But on Super Sunday for the National Football League, one year after three networks committed a total of \$12.8 billion for rights to broadcast N.F.L. games through 2005, the alarm that sounded on many sides of the television industry has become muted.

In its place is a growing conviction that in the diminished world of network television, football may soon be among the few sure sources of big audiences — especially male audiences, the most precious commodity for advertisers.

It is the reliable, enduring appeal of the sport that is convincing some television executives inside and outside the networks that the financial risks of meeting the N.F.L.'s extravagant price pale in comparison with the risk of a future without football, particularly as the advent of digital television promises to multiply the number of television channels many times over.

According to Nielsen Media Research, men are already watching less television across the board than in the past. But all three broadcast networks with professional football — ABC, CBS and Fox — have shown some growth in one category or another of male viewers for their regular prime-time shows this season. At least in part, those numbers are connected to the promotional opportunities that football games offer.

At the same time, NBC, the network that chose to walk away from the N.F.L. rather than pay what it deemed to be an inflated price for the right to broadcast games, has lost fully a quarter of the male viewers who watched its shows last season. (Its prime-time ratings among men 18 to 49 were down 26 percent in late 1998 and early 1999 from the same period a year earlier.)

While the largest portion of those male defections is being attributed by executives both inside and outside NBC to the absence this season of what had been television's most popular entertainment show among men, "Seinfeld," the loss of football amounts to a second wound for NBC, one that is certainly contributing to its hemorrhaging of male viewers.

Many advertisers pay a premium to pitch to men, because they are harder to reach. As women, who simply watch more television, "In prime time, most shows are geared toward women," said Steve Sternberg, a senior partner with TN Media in New York, a company that advises advertisers about buying commercial time on television. "So when you get a show that draws men, it is particularly valuable."

Football, though it does have a sizable number of female fans, still draws a heavy concentration of men, which makes it a must buy for companies that sell products like beer, cars and shaving gear.

Over the last two decades, the networks have seen their share of the overall television audience greatly reduced because of competition from the growing number of cable television channels. So despite some overall losses in viewing for the N.F.L. over that time, there is an increasing recognition of the value of football as a means to attract a mass audience as channels mushroom in the future.

For example, this year's National Football Conference championship game between the Atlanta Falcons and the Minnesota Vikings generated a 25.7 rating for Fox, the network that bought the rights to carry N.F.C. games in last year's deal. The American Football Conference championship game between the New York Jets and the Denver Broncos hit a 16.6 for CBS, which won the rights to A.F.C. games. (Each rating point represents 994,000 homes.)

Only two programs do better than that in any year: the Academy Awards and today's main event, the Super Bowl. That means three of the four top-rated programs every year

— in all times, not just in prime time — are N.F.L. games.

"I see football as vitally important; in the year 2005, it's going to look like a giant in a sea of pygmies," said David Hill, chairman of the Fox network, a unit of the News Corporation, which won legitimacy as a network largely on the basis of outbidding CBS for N.F.C. games in 1994. Fox paid \$1.58 billion that year for four years of games, and \$4.4 billion in last January's deal to renew the rights for another eight years.

"The N.F.L. is holding up very well in the face of the fragmentation of viewers," said Dean Bonham, the head of the Bonham Group, a Denver-based sports marketing firm that specializes in analyzing financial deals for sports properties. "The N.F.L. is insurance. For these networks, whether they lose money on the deal or not, the N.F.L. is not part of the problem; it's part of the solution."

Mr. Sternberg of TN Media agreed. "Five years from now, this could look like the greatest deal in the world," he said.

For the moment, it still looks a bit pricey. The networks that agreed to pay those billions all recognize that they cannot charge enough for the commercials during the games themselves to cover the enormous annual rights fees. They have all tried to use football as a promotional lever to build revenue in other areas,

Broadcasting the N.F.L. means attracting male viewers — in droves.

like regular prime-time programming, their own cable programming and even their informational sites on the Internet, where the networks are seeking a growing presence.

THE record of success for those efforts is open to some debate. NBC executives, who still find themselves defending the network's decision to abandon professional football after more than 30 years, say that any network in the N.F.L. deal can expect losses of more than \$100 million a year from it, making it extremely difficult for the networks to be profitable.

Dick Ebersol, president of NBC Sports, said the full measure of the risk of the deal made by the other networks cannot yet be taken. "In a great economy, the likes of which has seldom been seen before, this is a very shaky deal economically," he said. "In a bad economy, it's unimaginable how bad it could be."

Mr. Ebersol agreed that the N.F.L. retained a powerful appeal among viewers. "There are four or five times a year when you get a lead-in for your shows like nothing else on television," he said. "But we said, 'Do you trade that for \$150 million to \$200 million in losses?'"

NBC insists that the falloff in its numbers of prime-time male viewers this year cannot be attributed to the absence of N.F.L. games. "We can find no statistical evidence that the loss of football is a major part of our problem," said Randy Falco, president of the NBC Network. Instead, both he and Mr. Ebersol put the blame on the network's failure to develop strong hits in the last three years that could take up the slack from the "Seinfeld" departure.

Executives from the three networks that paid huge prices for football argued when their deal with the N.F.L. was announced last year that critics had exaggerated the expected losses. They predicted that in the long run, their investment in football would prove to be successful — both economically and strategically.

CBS says the deal is already paying off. The network has been the most aggressive of the three in claiming that it will make a modest profit on the N.F.L. even though, at \$500 million a year, it agreed to pay more than double what NBC had been paying under the previous N.F.L. contract for rights to the A.F.C. games.

Sean McManus, president of CBS Sports, pointed to the ratings for CBS's nationally televised games this season, which were exactly equal to those that NBC recorded the year earlier — a performance that defied the general downward trend in ratings for network programming. As for revenues from N.F.L. games, Mr. McManus said, "We accomplished our goals for the season; in fact, we exceeded our expectations."

He and other senior CBS executives declined to offer any specifics about the network's football revenue, but several executives involved in the sale of commercials during N.F.L. games said CBS had taken in about \$360 million from those ad sales. Ad agencies would keep 15 to 17 percent for commissions, leaving net revenues for CBS of just over \$300 million.

The network also said it received about \$80 million in new revenue for the local stations that it owns — seven of which, including WCBS in New York, are in cities with A.F.C. teams. The \$80 million figure has

been disputed by some of CBS's rivals.

Mr. Ebersol, the NBC Sports president, also suggested that CBS had a one-year-only break this season as it absorbed some money from advertisers displaced from NBC by the strike that killed the early part of the National Basketball Association season. But CBS executives said that any extra money the network accrued from N.B.A. sponsors contributed little to the \$70 million in additional advertising revenue that it took in over NBC's total for the A.F.C. package the year before.

CBS certainly benefited from a deal it made last year with its affiliated stations to share some of the costs of its football contract. CBS executives put the affiliates' contribution at about \$40 million, though only about \$28 million of that was in cash, with the rest taking the form of a complicated exchange of advertising time. (Fox made a similar arrangement with its affiliates.)

One other source of revenue for CBS is subscription fees paid by satellite services. Those fees, currently about \$5 million, should increase in the coming years.

So a best-case scenario — after subtracting the \$35 million CBS paid in production costs this year — puts CBS's total football revenue at about \$380 million — well below the \$500 million annual rights fee it must pay. But CBS spread out its payments to the N.F.L., assigning only \$300 million to \$350 million to the first year of the deal. That might mean that enormous costs are looming in the future, though CBS financial executives say they have taken steps to assure that no overwhelming balloon payments lie ahead. They say they will use some of the money made this year to cover those deferred expenses.

LESS tangible, but perhaps more important for CBS, is the influence that the N.F.L. may be having on both the network's prime-time schedule and its overall image. Leslie Moonves, president of CBS Television, cited 12 shows that have attracted bigger male audiences this season than the shows that were in the same time periods last year. The network's new core of hits — including "Everybody Loves Raymond," "King of Queens," "Becker" and "JAG" — were heavily pushed during football games.

In addition, two new programs, "60 Minutes II" and "Turks," garnered strong ratings when they were introduced in recent weeks — thanks, in part, to the exposure they got in heavily viewed N.F.L. playoff games, Mr. Moonves said. (The same sort of exposure also worked for a new Fox show, "The PJ's.")

"When we didn't have football, we were looked upon as a second-rate network," he said. "The 28-year-old media buyer in New York probably never watched a show on CBS. Now he watches football, and he's going to realize we have some other shows he's interested in."

More pointedly, the loss of the N.F.L. five years ago had a profound effect on the entire structure of the CBS network. One year after the deal, a host of important CBS affiliates abruptly defected to Fox, the network that had stolen away CBS's N.F.L. package, sending CBS reeling.

"That was the clear and measurable downside of losing football for CBS," said Mr. Bonham, the sports marketing expert. "We can also look at Fox and see how it benefited. Everyone said Fox was crazy with what it paid to get football away from CBS. It was predicted they'd

'The N.F.L. is not part of the problem; it's part of the solution.'

lose hundreds of millions — and they did. But football put Fox on the map."

Indeed, Chase Carey, the chairman of Fox Television, said: "Football helped build this network. The Fox sports brand, which is centered in the N.F.L., has been essential in building all of Fox."

THE Super Bowl rotates each year among the three networks that carry regular N.F.L. games. Fox has it this year, and Mr. Carey said it would be the centerpiece of the most profitable day in that network's history. "We're going to make \$150 million from Super Sunday," he said. That includes money from commercial spots during the game, selling at \$1.5 million to \$2 million for 30 seconds, and from spots during seven hours of pregame shows and the hour of entertainment shows that will follow the game.

Mr. Carey declined to say whether Fox would make or lose money on the N.F.L. this season, but he noted that ratings for Fox's national games were up slightly from last season. "It's an expensive deal," he said. "We'd prefer to pay less. But by the end, we'll be more than whole on this deal."

At ABC, which has the rights to the N.F.L.'s Monday night games, the economic picture is gloomier after the first season of the new football

Week in, Week Out, Men Watch Football.

Top 10 prime-time network series by the closest season.

MALE VIEWERS	1997-98
1. Monday Night Football (NBC)	Super Bowl XXXI
2. The Simpsons (Fox)	Baseball season
3. The X-Files (Fox)	Baseball season
4. The Sopranos (NBC)	Baseball season
5. The Practice (ABC)	Baseball season
6. The 24th Hour (NBC)	Baseball season
7. The Sopranos (NBC)	Baseball season
8. The Sopranos (NBC)	Baseball season
9. The Sopranos (NBC)	Baseball season
10. NFL Monday Showcase (ABC)	Baseball season

Source: Nielsen Media Research, Copyright 1999 NBC Universal

...and Everyone Tunes In to the Biggest Games.

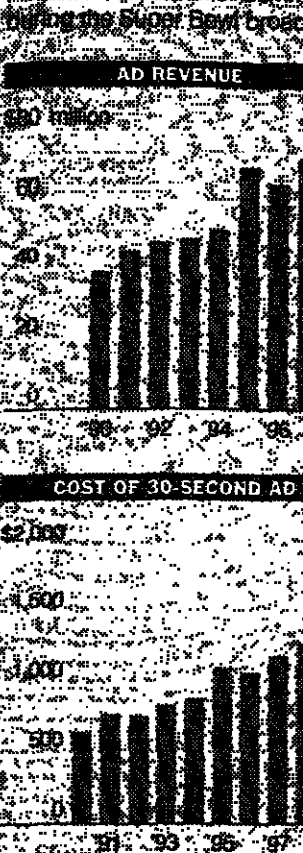
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9. The Sopranos (NBC)	Baseball season
10. NFL Monday Showcase (ABC)	Baseball season

Source: Nielsen Media Research, Copyright 1999 NBC Universal

So Super Bowl TV Revenues Keep Rising.

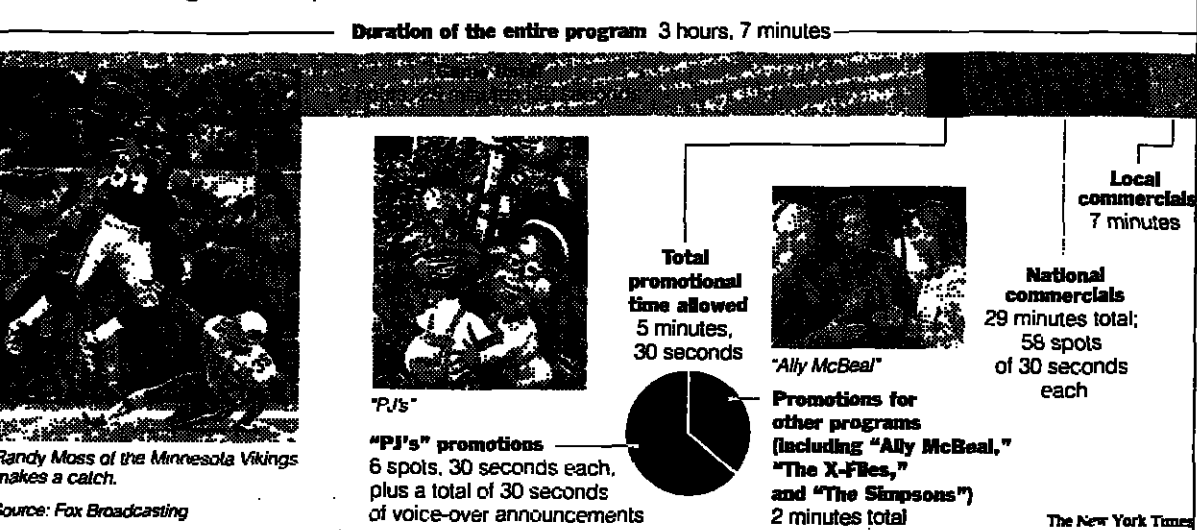
Total network revenue and individual ad costs for commercials during the Super Bowl broadcast.



Source: The New York Times

When Every Second Counts

During the N.F.L. playoff game between Minnesota and Arizona on Jan. 10, Fox devoted most of the 5½ minutes of promotions it was allotted to "The PJ's," a new animated program. The target viewers — young men — responded, making the "PJ's" preview their most-watched show so far this season.



Source: Fox Broadcasting

Shunning Emerging Markets — Except One

DIEGO ESPINOSA, the co-manager of the Scudder Global Fund, is not interested at the moment in Brazil or most of the rest of the world's major emerging markets.

His \$1.59 billion fund, which he runs with William Holzer, has cut back its exposure to emerging markets to 1 percent from 5 percent in the summer of 1997.

And as long as the global financial environment is as it is now, he said, "it is going to be hard for us to make the case to invest in emerging markets."

The environment is bad because it is harder and more expensive for emerging market countries and companies to borrow, there is downward pressure on the prices paid for goods from emerging markets and the overall world economy — especially the markets of Europe and the United States — appear to be headed for a slowdown.

Despite his hands-off view, Mr. Espinosa has begun to consider an exception — Argentina.

Since Brazil devalued its currency on Jan. 13, raising new questions about the world's emerging markets, Argentina has done several things to get his attention.

One, its Government has renewed, in a convincing way, its determination to keep its currency, the peso, pegged directly to the dollar.

The Government is even considering junking the peso in favor of the dollar itself.

"That shows a lot of commitment from the Government," he said. Another is the performance of the country's foreign debt.

While it was sold in the wake of the Brazilian devaluation, it has performed better than expected.

At the end of last year, the difference in yields between United States Treasury bonds and 30-year global bonds from Mexico and Argentina were 5.41 percentage points and 5.61 percentage points, respectively, while Brazil's was far higher at 9.86 percentage points.

Argentina was being treated like less risky Mexico, though many investors had always linked its outlook to Brazil's.

The spread on the same bonds jumped to 7.20 percentage points for Argentina compared with 5.75 percentage points for Mexico after the devaluation.

But it did not take off like Brazil, which rose to 12.47 percentage points. And since then, the Argentina

spread has narrowed to 6.61 percentage points, while Brazil has fallen only to 11.47 percentage points, according to Bloomberg News data.

All this may signal that investors are beginning to distinguish between Brazil and Argentina, though their economic fates are still tightly tied because of their trade dependence.

Two other factors also figure in Mr. Espinosa's thinking.

One is that Argentina borrowed heavily in global bond markets last year and, therefore, has much of the money it needs to meet its foreign debt payments this year.

And the Argentinean stocks he likes are not very sensitive to overall economic growth and are at very attractive valuations right now.

He said he was not allowed to name his favorites, but stocks that appear to meet his definition are YPF, the oil and gas company, and the Argentine telephone companies, Telefonos de Argentina and Telecom Argentina.

"This is the time to think about delinking" Argentina, he said. But he is still only thinking. As emerging markets continue to be very volatile, he has not bought anything yet.

WHILE there have been few reverberations in the world's developed markets since Brazil's renewed crisis, there were shocks throughout emerging markets.

Over all, according to the Morgan Stanley Capital International index, these markets are down 3 percent since Jan. 12.

The index for Asia is off 5.7 percent, while Latin America is down nine tenths of one percent, in dollar terms, after a nice rebound last week.

And turning around Brazil will not be easy. Raising interest rates could help stop the decline of the currency, already down 41 percent in value.

But higher interest rates could also push the economy deeper into recession.

A weakening currency could reignite inflation, and the spending cuts needed to cut the Government deficit will mean laying off state workers.

"Emerging markets need periods of global stability to grow," Mr. Espinosa said, because their fragile political systems cannot adjust to the current environment.

Bad Old Days

David Lieberman's Top 10 list of CBS' most hated National Football League moments in 1994.

1. The 1994 Super Bowl
2. CBS' Could be sold
3. More powerful than the weather channel
4. You're watching CBS ... at least for another week or two
5. We're not a station in the house!
6. You're bringing your talk show here, we'll sell all our seats!
7. In case anyone cares, we've got Andy Rooney
8. You can't spot "Bumping Envelopes" without CBS!
9. It's like Vizzini on de lapeuse!
10. CBS, now on Fox!

Source: CBS SportsCenter

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Facing Up to Medicare's Future

President Clinton and Republican leaders are devising plans to shore up the Social Security system. But neither the President nor his opponents are saying much about how to rescue Medicare, the entitlement program that is in deeper fiscal peril and poses even more unappealing political choices.

Under current trends, Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, which pays hospital bills for the elderly and is supported mostly by payroll taxes, will be depleted by 2012. Mr. Clinton's plan to use roughly \$650 billion of the projected \$4.4 trillion Federal surplus over the next 15 years to support Medicare may stave off insolvency for a few more years, but it will not solve the long-term problem of immense new costs when baby boomers begin needing Medicare.

The National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare has been thrashing out a plan to strengthen Medicare. The 17-member group is supposed to produce final recommendations by March 1 with the support of at least 11 members. But the ideological split is hardening between Republicans who want to cut Medicare costs by having private health plans compete for Medicare contracts and Democrats who want to guarantee benefits and expand Medicare coverage to include prescription drugs. Controlling costs and improving benefits are not easily reconcilable goals, yet both sides, when pressed, admit that both reforms are needed.

Senator John Breaux, chairman of the commission, recently issued a draft plan that would dismantle traditional Medicare, which reimburses doctors and hospitals according to a Government payment scale for every service that they perform. Instead, elderly individuals would be offered a fixed sum to spend as they choose among private and Government-run plans. A Federal board would negotiate with private plans on premiums and benefit packages. The plan would require some contribution from the elderly, just as they pay some Medicare premiums now, with higher contributions required for costlier plans.

The aim is to have private plans control costs, but many health experts say this transformation would produce only modest savings. Eventually, more money would have to be found to pay for the existing level of benefits or cuts would have to be made by limiting eligibility or reducing coverage.

Mr. Breaux's plan, which has come under criticism from other health experts in the Senate such as Jay Rockefeller and Edward Kennedy, is a starting point for discussion. But it is vague on crucial details. For example, it does not say how far the Government should go in dictating benefits. Setting a strictly defined benefits package might squelch the flexibility and innovation that private plans need to control costs while delivering good care. But not doing so might subject some beneficiaries to inadequate plans that are cleverly marketed. The Breaux plan does not address drug coverage. It would reduce overall costs by gradually increasing the eligibility age for Medicare and charging higher premiums for those with higher incomes.

Critics are nervous that radical restructuring might produce a system that is more chaotic and less protective of the poor. The Medicare system already allows the elderly to opt into private health maintenance organizations, and about six million beneficiaries have done so because those plans offer drug coverage and lower deductibles. But relying on the market means accepting a lot of flux. Last year, several private managed care plans abruptly decided to pull out of Medicare because the premiums were not covering their costs. That left 400,000 beneficiaries scrambling to find new doctors.

Mr. Breaux's plan does not adequately address such difficulties or the problem of private plans using strategies to enroll only healthy people, leaving the sickest to pay more in a vestigial Government-run program. It is thus unacceptable in its present form. Still, some shift away from traditional Medicare is inevitable as the health care system moves ever more deeply into managed care.

For Open Doors in the Senate

With the final debates and deliberations in President Clinton's impeachment trial not far off, the television news broadcaster CNN has rendered an important service by reminding the Senate of its constitutional duty to conduct the critical remaining portions of the trial in public.

To date, most of the debate about whether impeachment proceedings should be open or closed has centered largely on traditional Senate practices, with too little attention paid to the constitutional and public-interest arguments raised by Senators Tom Harkin and Paul Wellstone. In a brief-like document distributed to all 100 members of the Senate on Friday, CNN makes a powerful case that when the Senate confronts the solemn issue of whether to depose a duly elected President, the First Amendment requires openness.

The application to the Senate — prepared for CNN by Floyd Abrams, a lawyer who has also worked for The New York Times on First Amendment cases — does not challenge the Senate's power under Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution to exercise control over how impeachment trials are conducted. Nor does it dispute that impeachment debates and deliberations have historically been conducted in secret. But it notes that American government and society have changed since the Senate held closed hearings in the trial of President

Andrew Johnson. Those changes include what Mr. Abrams terms the "architecture" of free-speech law. Through dozens of rulings over the past several decades, the Supreme Court has recognized that the First Amendment extends beyond barring suppression of speech by individuals or assaults on a free press, to prohibiting government from arbitrarily preventing citizens from obtaining critical information about the functioning of their government. "The sheer range of proceedings endorsed as open by the Supreme Court," the brief states, "suggests the importance under the First Amendment of public observation of the act of doing justice." That is so, even where the proceeding in question had a history of being closed.

The oath taken by the senators at the start of the trial imparts a duty to abide by not just the impeachment clause, but the Constitution as a whole. So far, in all the debates about whether various proceedings should be open or closed, scant attention has been paid to First Amendment considerations, which weigh heavily against closed-door impeachment deliberations. At this important juncture in the trial, the question can no longer be ignored. This application is a timely and valuable way of reminding the Senate that any business as important as deciding the fate of a Presidency must be conducted in full public view.

Money Is at the Root of Trial's Partisanship

To the Editor:

Repeated statements by senators of their bipartisan efforts for a fair trial have become an empty mantra (news analysis, Jan. 29). The senators' adherence to party leadership and party-line voting is fueled by spiraling campaign costs and dependence upon the contributions the party makes to individual senators.

Was it coincidental that Senator Russell D. Feingold, a Democrat who was financially independent in the November election, was the only senator able to break party ranks?

Efforts to reform campaign finance law were blocked by the Republican leadership last year. Partisanship in the Senate impeachment trial provides compelling evidence of the need to reform our campaign finance system. CHARLOTTE M. SHAPIRO
Rockville Centre, N.Y., Jan. 29, 1999

barraged about the "Clinton Impeachment Follies" when much of Europe is following our example and conducting their own investigations into various corruptions.

Individually, the column provides its own answer. His examples, even the one that has some whiff of sexual scandal, are primarily about large amounts of money and foreign intrigue. Offices were misused.

Perhaps Americans feel embarrassed because President Clinton stands accused of covering up small gifts and trivial sexual acts in the Oval Office. When the crime marches the punishment, Americans are not afraid to delve into the matter and are certainly not embarrassed. I don't remember any embarrassment over Iran-contra. CHRIS GILBERT
Berkeley, Calif., Jan. 28, 1999

Controlling the Cameras

To the Editor:

The Senate's double standard is apparent in its proposal to videotape the depositions of witnesses for the impeachment trial (front page, Jan. 20). The technology will allow them to replay, restudy and dissect that testimony, in order to look for body language and nuances. When the senators are deliberating, to protect themselves, they close the doors and turn the cameras off. FRANCIS W. RODGERS
Rensselaer, N.Y., Jan. 29, 1999

Paula Jones's Rights

To the Editor:

Certainly, the fundamental rights of the President should be protected ("G.O.P. Trial Plan Passes in Senate Along Party Lines," front page, Jan. 29). Yet I wonder what consideration Mr. Clinton gave to the rights of Paula Jones in orchestrating his defense to her charges.

Did arranging for Monica S. Lewinsky to submit a false affidavit to avoid examination into his relationship with that young woman protect Ms. Jones's fundamental rights? Did his misstatements about his sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky in his deposition protect Ms. Jones's fundamental rights? The answer is that he ignored the rights of Ms. Jones to a fair trial against him. EDWARD L. CLABAUGH
Vashon Island, Wash., Jan. 29, 1999

Censure Conundrum

To the Editor:

The Democrats have argued for censure as the proper response to the President's wrongdoing. Now some claim that the Constitution does not allow the Senate to "find" that he lied under oath and interfered with the administration of justice (news analysis, Jan. 29).

If they don't believe that he did these things, or they believe that it is unconstitutional for the Senate to say so, how could they have advocated censure for so long? How would the Senate's statement of reasons for censure be constitutionally different from the "findings of fact" proposed by some Republicans? Virtually all Democrats have articulated some version of not approving of what the President did. Are they not willing to say what he did that they disapprove of? JOHN S. ROSENBERG
Tokyo, Jan. 29, 1999

Why We're Embarrassed

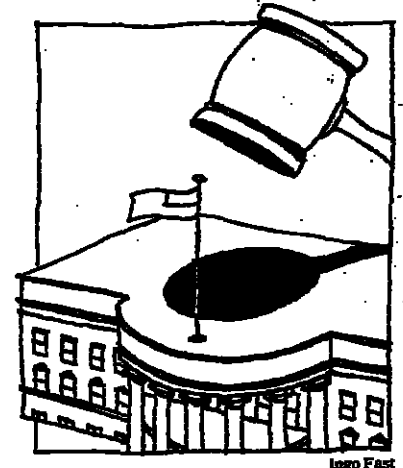
To the Editor:

William Safire (column, Jan. 28) asks why Americans should be em-

Scandal Is Political

To the Editor:

Kathy Curtin (letter, Jan. 28) epitomizes the point that has been missed by the majority of Americans. The



scandal of Watergate wasn't the fact of a burglary or the wiretaps, illegal though they were.

It was the performance of illegal acts for political purposes. Richard M. Nixon's willingness to subvert the legal process to accomplish his political purposes was the essential offense.

Today, we have a President who committed perjury based on the results of a poll to accomplish his political purposes. Mr. Nixon and Mr. Clinton were victims of their obsession to be viewed by history as men of character and substance, which in both cases was sorely lacking. MICHAEL BERRY
Piano, Tex., Jan. 28, 1999

\$40 Million Scam

To the Editor:

By instructing us on the brilliance of Bill Clinton's "campaign strategy" to save his Presidency, David Brooks (Op-Ed, Jan. 27) makes a great case for keeping this incredibly clever man in office to work on the country's problems. The real lesson for Mr. Brooks and his conservative friends is that if the Republicans are so incompetent that they can't even pull off a decent \$40 million-plus impeachment scam on an admitted sinner, they can't be trusted to run the country. MARVIN L. KRASNANSKY
Sonoma, Calif., Jan. 27, 1999

Limits of Forgiveness

To the Editor:

Maureen Dowd (column, Jan. 27) condemns the Republican House im-

peachment managers, writing, "It is worse to refuse to forgive than to need forgiveness." She thus clouds the issues regarding the President. One can forgive the President's trespasses, but still support his conviction and removal from office.

After all, when John Paul II condemns the death penalty, he asks for mercy and forgiveness for violent criminals. However, he does not argue that we should allow them to roam the streets freely without any penalty whatsoever. As a Christian I try to forgive those who, by breaking the law, trespass against me. At the same time, I wish them to be accountable through our judicial system. MICHAEL A. ROBERTO
Watertown, Mass., Jan. 27, 1999

Mr. Hyde's Thesaurus

To the Editor:

Opposing the motion to dismiss the impeachment case, Representative Henry J. Hyde argues: "I looked in the thesaurus about 'dismiss' and I came up with 'disregard,' 'ignore,' 'brush off' (excerpts, Jan. 26).

But Mr. Hyde deliberately ignores a significant variation among these terms: a case might be dismissed after consideration of its merits, but implicit in a case that is disregarded, ignored or brushed off is the absence of any consideration at all.

Surely, the wily Mr. Hyde must know that a thesaurus is not intended to serve as a substitute for a dictionary. BARBARA SARNELLI
Brooklyn, Jan. 27, 1999

Two-Tiered Vote

To the Editor:

I disagree with Peter M. Shane (Op-Ed, Jan. 27) when he denounces the two-tiered final vote on the articles of impeachment that has been suggested. Because the proposed "findings of fact" vote would have no legal force or effect, it would not infringe on the prerogatives of either the judiciary or the executive branch.

However, in light of Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution (the President "shall be removed" on conviction of a high crime or misdemeanor), a vote finding that the President committed the offenses alleged, followed by a vote of not guilty on the articles, would be an implicit concession that the alleged offenses do not rise to the level of high crimes or misdemeanors. Do the Republicans really want to send that message? STEPHAN S. KRAKOWSKY
Encino, Calif., Jan. 27, 1999

Why Have Witnesses?

By instructing us on the brilliance of Bill Clinton's "campaign strategy" to save his Presidency, David Brooks (Op-Ed, Jan. 27) makes a great case for keeping this incredibly clever man in office to work on the country's problems. The real lesson for Mr. Brooks and his conservative friends is that if the Republicans are so incompetent that they can't even pull off a decent \$40 million-plus impeachment scam on an admitted sinner, they can't be trusted to run the country. MARVIN L. KRASNANSKY
Sonoma, Calif., Jan. 27, 1999

To Henry Hyde and company, I say this: You got everything you asked for from the Senate. Now put up or shut up. There had better be something earth-shaking in this testimony or the American people might choose to reward the House prosecutors' love of legal gamesmanship by allowing them to pursue a law career in the private sector. JORDAN MATUS
Forest Hills, Queens, Jan. 28, 1999

Computers and Early Physics Won't Unlock the 'Fun' of Science

To the Editor:

Of the schools producing Intel (formerly Westinghouse) Science Talent Search finalists (news article, Jan. 26), five were schools from which you would expect such performance, like the Bronx High School of Science.

However, five were schools you might call small "reading-and-writ-

ing schools," which eschew overspecialization.

Conspicuously absent from the list were the public and private schools that have spent billions on technology over the past three years.

Thomas Henry Buxley's argument that "the scientific method is nothing but the normal working of the human mind" has become increasingly hard for our increasingly specialized age to grasp.

To read about education lately, you'd assume, quite wrongly, that education is about programs, subjects, expertise and technique.

To the contrary, high school education is not about specialization, programs or technology. It is simply about good students working closely and thoughtfully with fine teachers. BRUCE E. BUXTON
Falmouth, Mass., Jan. 28, 1999

The writer is headmaster of Falmouth Academy.

Lectures Aren't Enough

To the Editor:

Placing physics earlier in the high school science curriculum is a step in

the right direction, but it is not enough ("A Push to Reorder Sciences Puts Physics First," front page, Jan. 24). The traditional American introductory physics course is more an exercise in applied math than in experimental science. Lecturing students about physics is a poor way to promote understanding.

Students learn best when they are taught using activity-based, minds-on learning to explain scientific concepts, like being asked to use refraction methods to find out how much sugar is in a glass of 7-Up or to build simple calculators using logic gates. DENNIS M. ROBBINS
KEITH SHEPPARD
New York, Jan. 25, 1999

The writers are high school science teachers.

Eighth-Grade Plan

To the Editor:

Ninth-grade students are not ready for a full course in physics ("A Push to Reorder Sciences Puts Physics First," front page, Jan. 24); they are not yet versed in the mathematics of trigonometric functions, nor do they really comprehend the functional relationships of algebra.

Yet students need to understand the concepts of energy, electrical forces, pressure and atomic structure.

These subtopics of physics used to be taught in a general science course in the ninth grade. Why not introduce these essential physics topics in the eighth grade?

Then, not only would students be better prepared for courses in biology and chemistry, but they would also be better prepared for a later course that covers the full range of physics topics from mechanics to nuclear forces. MELVYN JAY ORELAND
New York, Jan. 25, 1999

The writer is a professor of physics at Pace University.

Editorial Observer/FLOYD NORRIS

Brazil's Economy: Moscow on the Amazon?

Close your eyes, and it feels like Russia all over again.

Brazil, the largest economy in its part of the world, seems to be steering rudderless from crisis to crisis. Its President, serving his second term, is seeing his international reputation as a reformer erode. Capital is fleeing and state governments are defying the central authority by refusing to pay their bills. Facing fiscal crisis, the Government's only solution seems to be to push interest rates to ridiculously high levels.

So it was in Russia last summer, as that country lurched toward default. In retrospect, the sign that things were out of control came when the Government was unable to borrow rubles, at least not without paying astronomical interest rates.

Now the same thing is happening in Brazil, whose national Government last week tried to issue about \$420 million worth of bonds denominated in reals, the local currency, but linked to the dollar to protect investors. The bonds did not sell because bidders were demanding interest rates of up to 35 percent — about the market rate that Brazil's own central bank had established in its desperate effort to support the real.

High interest rates help in moderation, but kill in excess.

Brazil finds itself in a classic Catch-22. If it pays such huge interest rates for very long, the Government will go broke or end up with a worthless currency as the printing presses run overtime. On the other hand, to get the money it needs without turning on the printing presses, it must pay such rates.

The result has been widespread speculation that Brazil will default — or, to put it in the more restrained terms used in polite financial circles, restructure its debt. People don't believe Brazil will honor its promises, so they will not lend money to it.

It was only a couple of years ago that Brazil seemed to be a beacon of economic success. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso had halted runaway inflation through the introduction of the real, with a policy of gradual controlled depreciation against the dollar. Capital was flowing in from foreign investors.

But the seeds of disaster were hidden in that apparent success. The President put off many badly needed reforms. Brazil's public sector is bloated, with too many well-paid employees doing too little, while there remains great poverty in some areas. The Government's debt grew and the real became overvalued.

Then the world changed. Foreign investors, burned in Asia and Russia, began to flee. Efforts to get Brazil's fiscal house in order — efforts that would have been hailed a year earlier — seemed to be too little too late and met political resistance.

At first, Brazil — its coffers filled by what was supposed to be a reassuring bailout by the International Monetary Fund — tried to brazen it out without devaluing the real. When that failed, it tried a little devaluation, then a bigger one. It said it would let markets fix the value of the currency, but then intervened. It pushed interest rates to the sky and then balked at paying such rates. The real is down 41 percent.

The Government and I.M.F. now face the difficult task of trying to figure out what to do next. There are no guarantees that even serious fiscal reform will bring investors back.

But it is clear what has not worked. High interest rates are like some drugs: In moderate doses, they can cure, but huge doses kill. The country must get rates down. If that leads to a further fall in the real, so be it. That will hurt those who rely on imported goods. But it will also make Brazil's exports more competitive.

In fact, it might be that the real, which now appears undervalued, would not fall very far, or at least not for very long. Capital is fleeing because investors fear the Government will default. But many Brazilian stocks have held their international value, as some investors bet those companies will prosper when things calm down. Unlike in Russia, the Brazilian banking system is reasonably strong. And unlike in Asia, most corporations are not burdened by foreign currency debt they will be unable to pay after devaluation.

International aid will be needed, both to offset the damage to the poorest Brazilians and to help some companies that will be in deep trouble as a result of the local recession and the currency devaluation. The priority now should be to keep the money available for those needs — not for propping up the currency.

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Getting the Republicans Back on Track

While Senate Republicans spent much of the past week searching for an "exit strategy" from the trial of President Clinton, the public seemed to be holding Republican politicians responsible for the entire impeachment quagmire. When the battle on Capitol Hill is over, what will the party do next? Here are some suggestions from various quarters on how the Republicans might shake off the impeachment funk.

Russell K. Paul is the chairman of the Georgia Republican Party. As Republicans look at life after impeachment, we must keep four points in mind.

First, exploiting our adversaries' problems is not enough. We believed that once voters really understood Bill Clinton, they would dislike him as much as we do and reward us for our insight. Instead, voters became petrified that we were disturbing the karma of economic good times.

Second, we must reconnect to average people. Republicans too often try to appeal to the brain when voters are listening with their hearts.

Third, forget macroeconomics. Tell working mothers how tax cuts offer the financial freedom to work fewer hours and be home when the school bus arrives. Explain how fathers can earn more and still make it to Little League games.

Fourth, loosen up. Of course, politics is serious business. But it is rarely deadly serious.

For a party that believes most of government is irrelevant, we seem to approach governance as a life-or-death struggle. Thus, the Grand Old Party is quickly becoming the Party of Uptight White Guys.

Voters weigh many factors in deciding how to vote. If they like you, however, they tend to overlook the flaws characteristic to all humans. If they don't like you, they won't even forgive your good points.

Ronald Reagan beat Jimmy Carter with a wry smile and a "there you go again." He defanged Walter Mondale with a wry promise not to use his opponent's relative youth and inexperience against him.

Ultimately, politics is about ideas. The electorate will keep us around if our ideas are better than those of our adversaries.

The last Republican Congress had one brief, shining moment — the Senate hearings on the Internal Revenue Service. It was the one time we rallied public attention to our agenda. That's the kind of post-impeachment action that will make voters forget Monica Lewinsky forever.

Eugene J. McCarthy, the former Democratic Senator from Minnesota, is the author of "No-Fault Politics."

During my 50 years in politics I've made it a practice not to try to advise the Republicans. And I have no idea whether impeachment will be a factor in the 2000 election.

There is really no point in anyone devising an exit strategy at this stage. Former Presidents Ford and Carter tried, and so did Bob Dole. All their proposals were rejected at the time. Senator Robert Byrd suggested the most elegant and obvious exit strategy, and it failed, too.

Why? When you build up partisan competition, based on loyalty to party, great issues and ideas inevitably take a back seat to squabbles over "morality" and personality.

This kind of partisanship — the mischief of factionalism — was exactly what the Founders feared. In 1780 John Adams wrote, "There is nothing I dread so much as a division of the Republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader and converting measures in opposition to each other. This, in my humble apprehension, is to be dreaded as the greatest political evil under our Constitution."

A senator may need to belong to a party; he ought not to be a party man. If senators cannot make independent judgments on matters of great importance, the chamber cannot function as intended. We saw this during the Vietnam War. It was far easier to get Democratic senators to oppose the war once it became Richard Nixon's war than when it was Lyndon Johnson's.

Martin Puris, chairman of the advertising agency Ammirati Puris Littas, is the author of "Comeback: How Seven Straight Shooters Turned Around Troubled Companies."

If the Republicans were my clients, I'd give them the same advice I'd give any of my corporate clients who found themselves in a similar situation: set a clear direction for your company based on your strengths and on the opportunities that exist in the marketplace, bring in the right people to do the work, and provide the leadership to impel those people toward achieving the vision you've set.

This takes some gumption and lots of sober self-analysis. But fortunately for the Republicans, President Clinton has given them an opportunity to regain their voice.

In his State of the Union address, Mr. Clinton moved away from the popular, traditionally Republican themes that he had previously co-opted — crime prevention, deficit reduction, welfare reform — and back toward a big-government agenda. By doing this, he presented the Republicans with an opportunity to claim the philosophical high ground by once again becoming the party of

smaller government and tax cuts. They should leap at this opening.

My final suggestion to Republicans would be that they tack up a sign on the wall of their party headquarters that says: "Keep it clear. Keep it clean. Keep it relevant. And forget the 'M' word."

Helen Fisher, an anthropologist at Rutgers, is the author of "The Anatomy of Love."

The Republicans' biggest problem is that they are exhibiting thinking that is characteristic of the male brain. Men tend to compartmentalize issues, focus their attention on specific details and think linearly. Women tend to assimilate more facts, arrange data within a wider matrix and think contextually.

National polls indicate that the majority of Americans are viewing the impeachment issue within a larger context — the good of the nation. When these alpha male Republicans see the merit of listening to the American public, they may endorse a contextual thinker as their leader — a woman or a man who can think like one.

Danielle Crittenden, the editor of *The Women's Quarterly*, is the author of "What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us."

Too often when Republicans speak to women, they talk to them as if they were all the audience of the Lifetime Channel. They trot victims of rape and AIDS onto the podium at their national convention to retell their ordeals. They send Elizabeth Dole out strolling with a hand mike. They get new-Mom Susan Molinari to give the Republicans' keynote address and single-Mom Jennifer Dunn to deliver the rebuttal to the President's State of the Union address.

In short, they don't believe they can reach women unless they play only to emotion and not reason, and transform the political into the personal. As Representative Dunn put it: "I've been a single mother since my boys were little — 6 and 8. I know how that knot in the pit of your stomach feels. I've been there."

Anti-suffragists thought women were creatures far too sensitive, too irrational, too glib, too self-occupied to be trusted with the vote. Modern politicians seem to have adopted that view, too. They feel they must address, in the most intimate and condescending terms, our personal problems as women — our love lives, our child-rearing woes, our fatigue, our pain.

What Republicans need today is the courage to be themselves and remember that none but the brave deserve the fair.

Frank Mankiewicz, a former top aide to Senators Robert F. Kennedy and George McGovern, is vice chairman of Hill and Knowlton.

Advice to Republicans? From this lifelong, often-suffering Democrat, it's easy.

First of all, put Dick Army and Tom DeLay out front whenever you can. Second, stretch out the impeachment trial as long as you can. Bully your moderates into going along, just as you did so effectively in the House. Make Monica (and her mother) tes-

tify a few more times, threaten Betty Currie with jail — and as a surprise witness, produce Susan McDougal in chains, led into the Senate by a grinning Kenneth Starr.

Americans love zealots, guys. Remember how eagerly we responded to Newt's call to "revolution"? Forget the soccer moms — get a crusade going to require Americans to buy at least one gun per month.

Oh, and if we ever get back to real business, make sure the voters understand it's better to let Social Security funds dwindle while we cut capital gains taxes. Remember to crack down on immigrants. Especially Asians and Hispanics.

And leave the minimum wage alone — those welfare cheats are now earning \$5.15 an hour flipping burgers and cleaning toilets. Call it "the dignity of labor" and hire expensive lawyers to keep out the unions.

Floyd Flake, a Democrat, is a former House member from New York.

The Republicans have been a party without any broad, unifying leadership for nearly a decade — since President George Bush led a domestic and international coalition into the Persian Gulf war. Now, Republicans need the caliber of personal strength and dignity that it takes to build consensus at home in times of peace.

That leadership cannot emerge from the Senate or House; too much energy and effort have been expended there on impeachment rather than on improving education and economic opportunity. If a new wave of Republicans are to succeed, they must speak to the real concerns of Americans and demonstrate that they understand the difference between language that defines and language that divides.

P. J. O'Rourke is the author, most recently, of "Eat the Rich."

The Republicans could act on principle, following the dictates of conscience and putting duty to the nation above personal and political considerations.

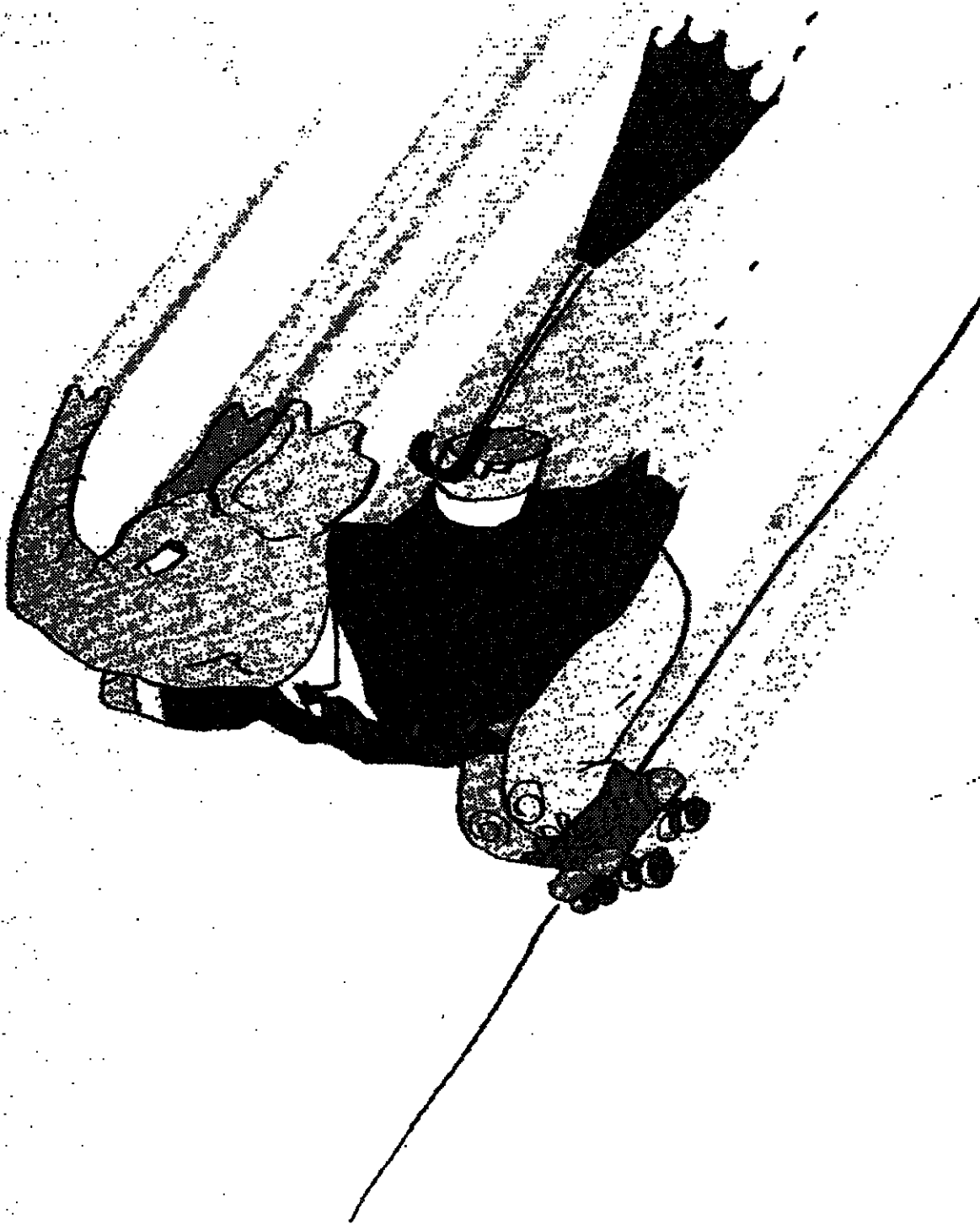
Nah. They could get body piercings to project a more hip and with-it image, especially the House Judiciary Committee members. Watching them on television caused all Americans to experience horrible memories of being met at the door by the father of their prom date. But, knowing Republicans, they'd probably pierce their wallets.

A sex-change operation for every male Republican leader would be too expensive, even for a party with major corporate donors in the health care field.

The Republicans could wait for the inevitable financial bust, but they didn't get much out of that in 1929.

Or they could have sordid affairs, solicit tainted campaign donations and practice hindbitching and jobbery of every sort. This works for Mr. Clinton, plus there's the advantage that the Republicans are doing it already.

But the best thing the Republicans could do is extend a hand of peace to the Democrats. They could let bygones be bygones, work together



Milan Trenc

with their opponents and show the electorate that Republicans trust Democrats — trust Democrats to have a George McGovern, a Fritz Mondale or a Michael Dukakis waiting in the wings. Or, indeed, an Al Gore.

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THE ARTS

An Original Director at Ease in the Studio System

By LAURA WINTERS

MAX FISCHER, the 15-year-old protagonist of Wes Anderson's comedy "Rushmore," is hardly your typical teen. A dapper, bespectacled young man, Max (the newcomer Jason Schwartzman) is fanatically devoted to his prep school, Rushmore Academy. President of most of the school's extracurricular activities, he is failing his classes but nonetheless plans to apply to Oxford and the Sorbonne.

Wes Anderson, the 29-year-old director of "Rushmore," which opens on Feb. 5, is as singular a personality as Max, his comic creation. Where Max is flamboyant, however, Mr. Anderson is quiet. Underneath this reticence, though, lurks a gentle fierceness that has enabled him to make two thoroughly offbeat films within the Hollywood studio system.

Mr. Anderson wrote both "Rushmore" and his first movie, "Bottle Rocket," with his friend and fellow Texan, Owen Wilson. "Bottle Rocket," a story of three earnest would-be criminals, kicked off Mr. Anderson's directing career in 1996, as well as the acting careers of Mr. Wilson and his brother Luke. The three fast friends and collaborators share a house on the outskirts of Hollywood.

"Rushmore" features Bill Murray in an indelible turn as an unhappy tycoon, Mr. Blume, who befriends Max and then competes with him for the affections of a teacher (Olivia Williams). The film has already proved a surprise hit at several festivals, including Toronto and New York last fall. "Wes has his own peculiar voice and vision," said the director Peter Bogdanovich, who introduced the film at the Telluride Film Festival. "His films have such a hilarious point of view about the idiosyncrasies of men, and yet they're done so straight ahead."

In person, Mr. Anderson is polite yet wary, dressed in a pair of brown corduroy pants and sporting glasses and red New Balance sneakers. "Whenever people describe me in print, they always say that I'm 6-foot-1 and something like 112 pounds," he said over a glass of iced tea. "They make me out to be a total rail — which I am, but I hate reading my weight in articles."

To go with his bookish appearance, he has an old-fashioned literary sensibility. His enthusiasms run from the films of Ernst Lubitsch and Elia Kazan to the writings of E. B. White.

But he has a pop sensibility as well, which shows up in "Rushmore's" many small, telling details — Mr. Blume's Budweiser swim trunks, for example.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Wilson met in a playwriting class at the University of Texas at Austin. Their affinity — besides being the middle sons of ad executives — springs from an interest in questions of friendship and a generosity of spirit.

"There's a lack of cruelty or meanness to the stuff we like," Mr. Wilson said. "We're interested in characters who have enthusiasm."

They create a fablelike universe, although the acting is realistic. "We wanted to have 'Rushmore' become its own slightly heightened reality, like a Roald Dahl children's book," Mr. Anderson said.

Both agree that Max embodies elements of each of them. Mr. Wilson was expelled from his prep school in 10th grade, while Mr. Anderson was awed by not a strong student but, like Max, cast his sights high.

"I remember one day while we were working on 'Rushmore,' I told Wes that Max was a lot like him," recalled Mr. Wilson, laughing. "Wes didn't think so. And I said, 'Wes, we were at U.T. together and you'd had a horrible freshman year and you told me you were planning to transfer. I asked where and you said, 'Yale.'"

Though he never made it to Yale, Mr. Anderson's quiet determination has enabled him to get places as a director. After "Bottle Rocket" came out, he and Mr. Wilson set about completing the script of "Rushmore," which they had started writing some years before. In mid-1997, they and the producer Barry Mendel held an auction for the film rights and struck a deal with Walt Disney Studios, which offered them a \$10 million budget.

Bill Murray agreed to play the part of Herman Blume, and Mr. Anderson even managed to obtain St. John's, his Houston high school, as the setting for "Rushmore." But despite an extensive search, he hadn't found the right Max. In October, 1997, roughly a month before shooting was to begin, a casting director met 17-year-old Jason Schwartzman at a party. Mr. Schwartzman, a musician whose mother is Talia Shire and whose uncle is Francis Ford Coppola, had no previous film experience.

When the casting director told him that the character was short, libidinous, wrote plays and liked older



Wes Anderson, director of the offbeat comedy "Rushmore," in the parlor of one of his favorite New York haunts, the Inn at Irving Plaza. The movie opens in the United States this week.

women, Mr. Schwartzman rejoined, "Boy, that sounds like me."

As a director, Mr. Anderson is low-key but a perfectionist.

"He doesn't play games with his actors," mused Ms. Williams, the British actress who plays the teacher, Miss Cross, in the film. "He'd come up and say, 'The thing you do with your face when you smile — don't do it.'"

Mr. Murray's performance as the humane and deeply conflicted steel magnate has won him the best supporting actor award from the New York Film Critics Circle and talk of an Oscar nomination. Mr. Anderson recalls that Mr. Murray told him at one point, "I want to go deeper with this one."

Elaborating, Mr. Murray said, "If you're doing a connect-the-dots drawing, you can draw a cabin with just a few lines, or you can draw a very nice

cabin with about 30 lines. That's the kind of cabin I wanted to draw here — one with lots of lines, lots of connections between things, places and ideas that were in the script."

Seeing Bill Murray on the campus of his old high school must have been a sign, for Mr. Anderson, of how far he had come. His first camera was a Super-8 given him by his father. His parents divorced when he was 8, and his mother, who now works in real estate, became an archeologist. Even though "Rushmore" is set at his alma mater, Mr. Anderson does not have much nostalgia for his student days.

When Mr. Anderson and Mr. Wilson graduated from college, they were already hard at work on the script for "Bottle Rocket," which was conceived, as Mr. Wilson puts it, "as a 'Mean Streets' where the streets aren't so mean."

They drummed up enough money to shoot a 13-minute short, and with

the help of the writer and producer L. M. Kit Carson, the short was shown at the Sundance Film Festival in 1993. It was eventually sent to Polly Platt, who was working for James L. Brooks's Sony-based production company, Gracie Films. Ms. Platt loved the material, and she and Mr. Brooks came down to Dallas for a reading.

"The whole cast — director, stars and writers — were living in one small space," Mr. Brooks recalled. "You'd think it would have occurred to somebody to read the thing through, but it hadn't. It went on forever."

But Mr. Brooks was impressed with the script and its creators and signed on as executive producer. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Wilson moved out to Los Angeles, where they cut and shaped "Bottle Rocket" and, in the fall of 1994, Mr. Anderson began to film the movie.

The experience of "Bottle Rocket"

was both an exhilarating and a difficult one for Mr. Anderson.

The film did not do much business, but it earned good reviews and established his reputation. Mr. Anderson is already working with Mr. Wilson on their next script, an ensemble comedy that will take place in New York.

"I like the literary history of this city," he said. "The new movie's about a family of geniuses that have grown up on the Upper East Side."

As he moves gradually away from his native ground, it doesn't seem likely that Mr. Anderson will lose the odd mixture of enthusiasm and discomfit that he shares with his characters.

"Wes is uncompromisable," Mr. Brooks said. "To be in the studio system making personal films is the hardest goal to reach. The question is 'Can these guys be who they are, in pictures today?' It's great that the answer is 'Yes.'"

My Private Screening With Pauline Kael

Wes Anderson, the director and co-writer of the new offbeat comedy "Rushmore," is a lifelong fan of the New Yorker magazine film critic Pauline Kael, who is now retired. Wanting to show her his film, he tracked her down last fall at her home in the Berkshire Mountains. The following account of his visit is from the introduction to his "Rushmore" screenplay, to be published on Friday by Faber & Faber.

I already had Pauline Kael's phone number because I'd found it when I was looking through somebody's Rolodex a couple of years ago. "Hello. My name is Wes Anderson. I'm calling for Pauline Kael, please." I had immediately recognized her voice (from a tape I have of her on "The Dick Cavett Show") when she answered the telephone, but I wanted to give her a chance to introduce herself.

"Who are you?" she said, suspicious and steely. I paused. "I'm a filmmaker, and I've just finished a movie called 'Rushmore,' and I was hoping maybe I could..."

"How long is it?" "Ninety minutes." "Ninety?"

"Or slightly less. Ninety-ish," I said.

"That's a long 'Rushmore.'"

I hesitated. I thought she was making a joke, but I didn't get it.

"Who's in it?"

"Bill Murray." This was my trump card. I knew from her reviews that Bill Murray was one of her favorite comedians.

"Which Bill Murray?"

There was a silence. "The Bill Murray. You know Bill Murray. You love Bill Murray."

"What was he in?"

My mind drew a blank. I could only think of one title. "Meatballs."

It didn't ring a bell. "You'll know him when you see him."

She laughed uncomfortably and said, "O.K." She asked if "Rushmore" was my first film, and I told her no, that I'd directed a movie called "Bottle Rocket."

There was another silence.

"Well, let's hope this one's not too thrown together."

I thought about this. "How do you mean thrown together?" I said.

She didn't answer. I waited. She leaned quietly, and then she seemed to warm up all of a sudden. "O.K., send me the tape," she said.

"Actually, to tell you the truth, I'd prefer to screen it for you. Is there a movie theater near you?"

She paused. "There's the Triplex."

"Let me show it to you at the Triplex."

She sounded skeptical. "How are we going to do that?"

"I'll get the studio to set it up."



Pauline Kael received a visit from "Rushmore's" director.

"That could be expensive," she said.

"Well, let's stick it to them," I said.

She liked the sound of this.

"O.K., let's stick it to them," she said.

A few weeks later I drove from Cambridge to Ms. Kael's house in Great Barrington, Mass. I brought some cookies with me during the first reel. I knocked on the screen door and she looked out. She was sitting in a wooden chair.

"My God, you're just a kid," she said.

She was a few inches under 5 feet tall, and she stood shakily with a metal cane that had four legs at the base. She has Parkinson's, which makes her shake a little bit and leaves her unsteady. She told me she had been in the hospital with meningitis during the week after we spoke on the telephone, which explained her forgetting who Bill Murray was.

She told me I would have to hold her hand and help her get around, and I told her that would be just fine. We made our way out to the car.

On the way to the theater she told me she'd invited her friend Dorothy to join us. "I would've gotten a group together, but I didn't want to have too many people, in case the movie isn't any good." I nodded and pulled into the driveway next to the theater. We went into the lobby and she introduced me to Dorothy.

"This is Wes Anderson. He's responsible for whatever it is we're about to see." Then Ms. Kael told me I should change my name. "Wes Anderson is a terrible name for a movie director," Dorothy agreed.

Ms. Kael and Dorothy sat near the back of the theater. Ms. Kael explained, "I like to see the whole screen." I offered them some cookies, and Ms. Kael immediately started

ed eating one. "These don't have butter in them, do they?"

"My guess is they probably do," I said.

"I'm not supposed to eat butter," she said, but she kept eating. Ms. Kael and Dorothy watched for an hour in total silence. Then Dorothy, who is a real estate agent, got paged and walked out, and that was the last I saw of her. Finally, the movie ended, and I took Ms. Kael's hand and walked with her out of the theater.

"I don't know what you've got here, Wes."

I nodded.

"Did the people who gave you the money read the script?"

I frowned. "Yeah. That's kind of their policy."

We started slowly down the steps. "Just asking," she said. It was a short walk to the car.

I was a little disappointed by Ms. Kael's reaction to the movie. She is probably the most influential movie critic of all time, and she is definitely my favorite. I started reading her New Yorker reviews in my school library when I was in 10th grade, and her books were always my guide for finding the right movies to watch and learning about filmmakers. I'd gone to great lengths to arrive at this moment.

I drove us back to her house. We went inside, and Ms. Kael invited me to sit in her study and talk.

The house is full of books, and the rooms are large, with lots of windows. She took me to a closet in a room crammed with extra copies of all her books. She told me I could have any of them I wanted. They were first editions, and I wanted to take a dozen of them, but eventually I just chose two.

I asked her to sign one of them for me, and she said this would take a few minutes. Her Parkinson's makes it difficult for her to write. That's why she quit The New Yorker. I asked her if she'd ever dictated a review, and she said, "I think I wrote more with my hand than with my brain." She said she would never write again.

"Glad to hear it," I said, thinking of the review of "Rushmore" that she wasn't going to write. She looked up at me. She smiled faintly.

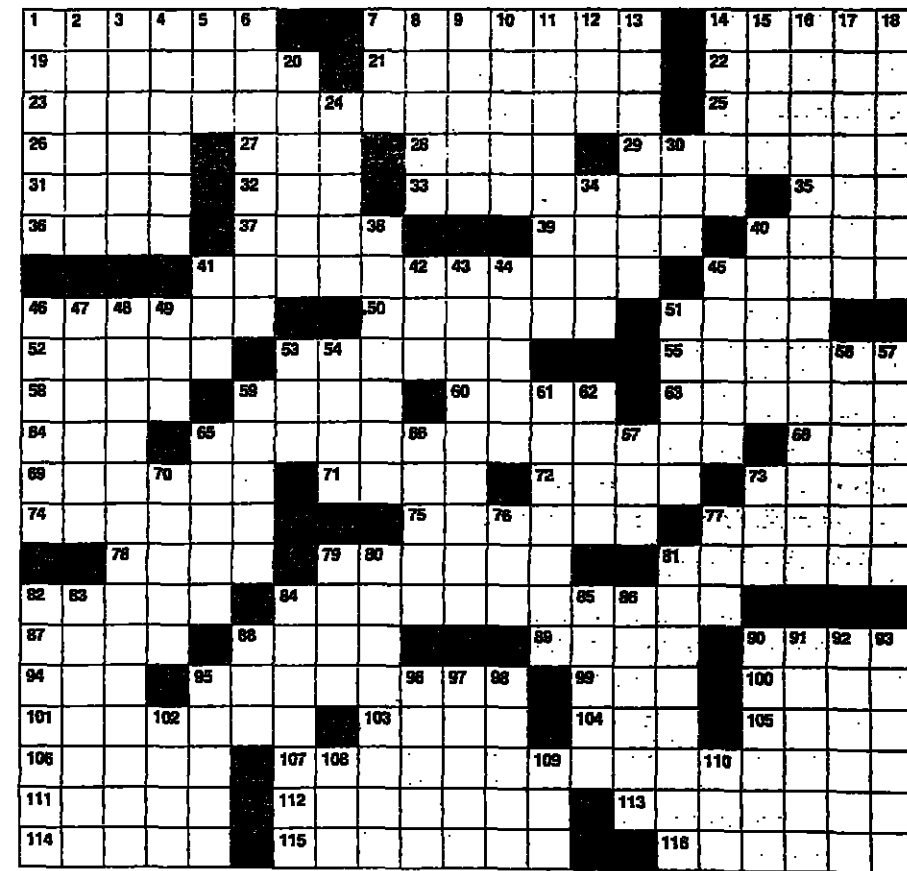
Then we sat for a while talking about movies, and she finished signing my book, and I told her I had to get back on the road. I was headed for New York, and it was already getting dark.

She walked me to the door, and she told me to keep in touch, and we said goodbye. I didn't look at her inscription until I'd checked into my hotel room. It said:

"For Wes Anderson. With affection and a few queries. Pauline Kael."

GAINING WEIGHT

By MANNY NOSOWSKY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ



ACROSS

- 1 Gold count
- 7 Calif. daily
- 14 See 17-Down
- 19 Mark of a ruler
- 21 Upset and then some
- 22 Dreadlocks sporter, for short
- 23 Take the algae out for a stroll?
- 25 Lord's attendant
- 26 Public transport
- 27 "Rain"
- 28 "And this is the thanks..."
- 29 Ax politely
- 31 Penta plus three
- 32 Jug — Pins (Riviera resort)
- 33 Sports trophy since 1927
- 35 Sapporo sash
- 36 A question of timing
- 37 Pants problems
- 39 It has shoulders
- 40 Trading partner of ancient Tyre
- 41 Vandalize part of Ohio?
- 45 Weight lifter
- 46 Annual TV event, with "the"
- 50 "You have to see this!"
- 51 Is worthwhile
- 52 Fate
- 53 Pia spots?
- 55 It comes with sections
- 58 1958 movie chiller, with "The"
- 59 Standard varieties
- 60 Old magazine billed as "America's Aviation Weekly"
- 63 Introverts
- 64 Deviation
- 65 Our church's blond caretaker?
- 68 Aqueous
- 69 Lazybones' declaration
- 71 — point (never)
- 72 Corp. magnates
- 73 State of the union
- 74 Buyer, in a phrase
- 75 Soldier's activity
- 77 Text
- 78 Singer Coolidge
- 79 Confessional account of a sensational nature
- 81 Naval position
- 82 Twinkle-toed
- 84 Abide a W.W. II general?
- 87 It doesn't get far from home
- 88 Color of the Seine
- 89 Flying —
- 90 What tots are taught
- 94 Blink of an eye
- 95 Liqueur brand
- 99 Nothing at all
- 100 Excoriate

- 101 One way to pitch
- 103 "The Joy of Cooking" writer
- 104 Motor attachment?
- 105 Cross
- 106 Live movies
- 107 Storage spot for a midge?
- 111 Across-the-board
- 112 Holds one's interest
- 113 Flasco
- 114 Scotsman's nickname
- 115 Bacon servings
- 116 Pass along greetings

DOWN

- 1 Bow (to)
- 2 Old-style revolutionary
- 3 Empathize
- 4 1993 Super Bowl M.V.P.
- 5 Big bang maker
- 6 Research types
- 7 Wee
- 8 Have — of (display)
- 9 Lemon-flavored, maybe
- 10 Upset
- 11 Concern
- 12 It may block a compromise
- 13 Like many classical aphorisms
- 14 Farhom
- 15 Kind of shift
- 16 Equal to Isaac?
- 17 With 14-Across, certain crystal
- 18 Brie base
- 20 Its main street marks Last Chance Gulch
- 24 Flies or gadflies
- 30 Sch. meeting room
- 34 Fleece
- 38 Patronizes
- 40 Indo-European speaker
- 41 Choral syllable
- 42 With 83-Down, "new socialist man" advocate
- 43 Everywhere
- 44 Nuzzles or nozzles
- 45 "An American in Paris" co-star, 1951
- 46 "No problem here"
- 47 Bow
- 48 Give top honors in New Jersey?
- 49 Diplomat: Abbr.
- 51 Pullovers
- 53 Go flat?
- 54 Class of submarines
- 56 Launderer's challenge
- 57 Purim honoree
- 59 "Butterfield 8" author
- 61 Carnegie Hall event
- 62 Team components
- 65 Government issue

- 66 Just for laughs
- 67 Dress (up)
- 70 Inclined
- 73 Coffee maker
- 76 Small intake
- 77 "Miró, Miró, on the wall," e.g.
- 79 Particular
- 80 Kindergartners' art, e.g.
- 81 Succeeded
- 82 Takes in
- 83 See 42-Down
- 84 Stir
- 85 Verdi's Alfredo Germont, e.g.
- 86 Followed
- 88 Cold call?
- 89 Fracas
- 91 Measles mark
- 92 King of 70's pop
- 93 2000 Olympics site
- 95 1941 #1 Sammy Kaye hit
- 96 Whom King David sent to be killed in battle
- 97 Campaign opponent
- 98 Faster's opposite
- 102 Pored over
- 106 "— moment"
- 108 Naval letters
- 110 Denver Nuggets' orig. league

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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OCTO PARES BOAR ADLER
TRIPLEVOB SCOTE SCALE
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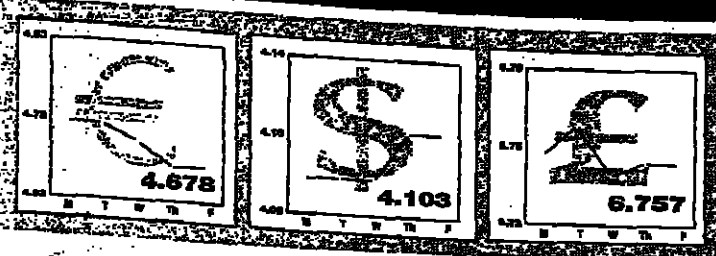
Monday,
February 1, 1999

BUSINESS & FINANCE

The Jerusalem Post

17

Today's shekel



In brief

Koor increases ECI stake to 24.6%

Koor Industries exercised an option to buy 5 percent more of ECI Telecommunications Ltd., bolstering its control over Israel's largest telecommunications equipment company.

Koor will pay Clal Electronic Industries Ltd. \$141.7 million, or \$37 a share, for 3.83 million shares of ECI. The holding company, which is increasing its stake in ECI to 24.6%, received the option last April when it agreed to buy 5% of the telecommunications equipment company from Clal for \$112 million.

The purchase, which gives Koor the ECI stake at a 15% discount to its current market value, is part of the holding company's strategy to focus its businesses in telecommunications equipment and agricultural chemicals. At the same time, the holding company is selling activities in areas such as food, financial services, and bus manufacturing.

"They will take advantage of opportunities to raise their stake" in ECI, said Shmuel Ben-Eliezer, an analyst at Solid Financial Markets. "This is a strategic investment for them." *Bloomberg*

GVT wins Peru long distance license

Global Village Telecom (GVT), a leading provider of wireless rural and remote telecommunications services, has been awarded a license to provide national and international long distance services in Peru.

As part of the plan, GVT - which was spun off from Gilat Satellite Networks in April 1997 with a private placement of \$50 million - is to deploy the infrastructure for national long distance in the cities of Lima, Piura, Tumbes, Arequipa, and Cajamarca, using advanced satellite networking systems.

The selection of long distance operators is part of the deregulation of the domestic and international long distance telecommunications market in Peru.

A spokesman for GVT said the company could not reveal figures for how much the deal is worth, but did add that there is "great potential."

The first phase of the project is to be completed within one year. In a separate transaction, GVT recently won a concession to provide rural telephony services to over 200 villages in Peru and has already begun activities there, deploying the necessary infrastructure in preparation for the telephone installations.

The company intends to offer both voice and data services to additional unserved businesses and communities all over Peru. *Nicky Blackburn*

Waves, Microsoft ink licensing agreement

Jerusalem Post Staff

Tel Aviv-based signal processing start-up Waves has signed an agreement to license elements of its TrueVerb technology to software giant Microsoft. Waves announced last week.

The company, a leading software supplier of signal processing and user interfaces for the professional audio and multimedia markets, spent over a year negotiating with Microsoft before the deal was finally signed. No figures on its worth have yet been released.

TrueVerb, an artificial reverberation process for creating the illusion of distance and space in an audio stream, is to be integrated into Microsoft's DirectMusic, a new application programming interface (API) that enables software developers to deliver high-quality, interactive music in applications written for the Windows operating system.

The technology can convey an accurate simulation of rooms, halls, and other acoustic spaces, making it seem as if the sound is being heard in the simulated space.

Using TrueVerb, DirectMusic

scores will sound as if they have been performed in concert halls, or even huge stadiums.

"Waves' TrueVerb will help us take music on the Windows platform to a new level by greatly improving users' listening experiences," said Trudy Culbreth Brassel, program manager for DirectMusic at Microsoft.

"This is a major development for our company and is worth a great deal," said Gilad Keren, president and CEO of Waves. "It validates our technology as the leading reverberation technology available today."

He said the company, which has sales and marketing offices in the US and Great Britain, is now negotiating with a number of hardware vendors.

DirectMusic including the Waves reverb technology, will be on the market from February 1 as part of the DirectX 6.1 Software Development Kit.

It is also to be incorporated into Windows 2000, which is expected to hit the market in the second or third quarter of this year.

Keren said he hopes more deals with Microsoft will follow.

Software exports soar to \$1.5b.

Software developer Netect sold to US firm for \$35m.

BY NICKY BLACKBURN and agencies

Israel's software exports reached a record \$1.5 billion in 1998, up 50 percent over 1997, the Israeli Association of Software Houses said yesterday.

"The figures show that the software sector is the fastest growing of all the export industries in Israel," said Amiram Shore, chairman of the association. "If this growth continues throughout 1999, exports will exceed \$2b. by the end of the year."

Shore said the results had come as a surprise to the association. "Before now the industry was growing at a rate of 20%-25%

and we expected the same this year. Now we discover it's twice that," he said.

The reason for the sharp rise, according to Shore, lies in the growing interest in Israeli hi-tech around the world, combined with a rapid growth in sales by established software leaders, such as Check Point Software Technologies and Aladdin Knowledge Systems.

In addition, he said that this year some 200 new software houses and start-ups' exports crossed the \$1 million-a-year barrier. Next year sales for these companies will double or even triple, further boosting total exports, according to Shore.

The association estimates that some 90% of the \$1.5b. total is contributed directly to the Israeli economy. "This makes it the most important export industry in Israel," said Shore.

Meanwhile, a US software management company has signed an agreement to acquire software developer Netect for \$35m., two of Netect's shareholders said yesterday.

Capital (VSP) Holdings and its subsidiary Lamont Ltd. announced the sale to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange without naming the US purchaser, conceding only that the buyer was traded on Nasdaq, while Netect's iden-

tified it as Houston-based BindView Development, a maker of management software systems for Windows and Novell computer networks.

Officials at Capital Holdings were not available for comment. Netect, established in 1996, develops software for a wide range of business systems. Ma'ariv said the purchase would allow BindView to compete with leading companies in the computer security field.

The announcement said the deal would be made via a share swap. It listed the value of the purchasing company at \$500m.

IMF's Fischer: Rate hikes saved the shekel

Eisenstadt, Frenkel, Sharansky, Elie Wiesel star at Shabbat meal

DAVOS DIARY

The Bank of Israel's staunch response to October's shekel crisis restored price stability and effectively prevented a return of 1980s-level hyperinflation, International Monetary Fund deputy managing director Stanley Fischer told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Fischer, who is considered among the world's most prominent economists, was referring to the central bank's controversial, aggregate 4-percent rate hike within two weeks following the shekel's 18% depreciation at one point last fall.

Once price stability is lost, societies are pulled into periods of much greater macro-economic instability, said Fischer. The record shows that inflation rises as uncertainty over prices, exchange rates, and overall macro-economic performance increases.

"You need to keep basic assumptions about how the economy will work," Fischer said. "You saw in your country for a short period a devolution, great fears that a new inflationary process was on the



Some 100 demonstrators march in Davos on Saturday protesting against the World Economic Forum's annual meeting and lambasting the World Trade Organization.

way. That would have really created uncertainty in Israel," he added that firm reaction by the Bank of Israel has brought inflation under control and restored stability.

Concerning the Israeli budget, Fischer said it must be "responsible and strong," so that the deficit-lowering process can continue.

Shabbat story

Earlier this weekend, Fischer was among a colorful collection of Jewish figures ranging from Moroccan royal councillor Andre Azoulay to US Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Stuart Eizenstat and Nobel laureate Eli Wiesel who got together for a tra-

ditional Shabbat meal, while several hundred demonstrators for and against a host of causes were converging on this quaint Alpine town.

Jointly hosted by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, the evening opened with

Frenkel - scion to a cantorial dynasty - chanting the Kiddush, sweeping along with him many of those present who loudly joined in, including his longtime arch-rivals Dan Gillerman and Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper.

Despite the jolly atmosphere he could not resist himself from warning against the negative impact of election economics aimed at achieving short-term political goals at the expense of long-term economic

stability. For his part, lost no time urging the governor, yet again, to reduce interest rates.

Still, these familiar exchanges of the evening, followed by two rare discussions on the Torah portion, one delivered by Sharansky and the other by Eizenstat, who drew an analogy between the Exodus and globalization, whose impact is also the forum's official focus.

Sharansky also discussed the biblical Exodus which, he said, reminded him of his own and the rest of the Russian immigration's dramatic emergence from the Soviet Union. His point was further taken by Wiesel, who also conducted the traditional singing of Shabbat Zimra.

Novell has its eye on Israeli technology

BEEN HERE

By NICKY BLACKBURN

realized a few years ago that we need to acquire technologies from around the world and Israel is a fertile spot," he said.

In December, Novell Israel, the local branch of Novell, began negotiations with six companies with the aim of buying a local firm specializing in consultation, support, and integration of data communications networks.

On this visit Ricart has meetings arranged with five companies.

Ricart said that unlike competing multinational companies, such as Microsoft, Novell has no plans to open an R&D center here. "The traditional model of a self-contained development office is no longer applicable," he said. "The Internet allows us to have engineers from all over the world

accurate and up to date. "A number of Israeli companies understand this and have taken it to heart."

Ricart, who developed SURAnet, the world's first Internet service provider while he was director of the Computer Science Center at the University of Maryland, said that Novell, like other multinational players, is actively searching for technologies that will help create Internet communities.

"We are looking for technologies like ICQ [the popular chat line set up by Mirabilis], that will help us create new business-to-business communities, not just people-to-people ones. We want to learn how to use existing communities to grease the skids of business transactions."

Ricart, who has been visiting once a year for the last few years, said that Novell has taken an increasing interest in the technologies being developed here. "We

working together on joint developments on a project-to-project basis."

Ricart is full of praise for the way Israel has organized its Internet connections and believes that other countries have much to learn from it. "In Israel there is a single Internet exchange point. This is the logical thing to do, but other countries are usually less organized and in some cases send

their traffic via the U.S. Life is much easier for Israeli companies because they can focus on technology, not on the process of connection."

In addition, he said Israel has a single registry of names, which is a major advantage. "As a result any problems can be resolved locally without going elsewhere in the world."

Analysts: Euro's first month a disappointment

By TOM GILES

LONDON (Bloomberg) - It's been a disappointing first month for the euro, with Europe's common currency losing 2.6 percent of its value against the dollar and confounding analysts' expectations for a strong start.

From an initial rate of \$1.6675 when it began trading January 4, the euro peaked at \$1.1899 in the first hours of trading. Friday, it dropped to \$1.1360. As a result, some currency soothsayers are pruning their forecasts for where the European currency will end the first quarter.

Evidence that the US economy is growing at a faster pace than previously thought has combined with growing concern about the depth of the slowdown facing the economies of the euro 11 countries to burst the euro's bubble. Now, investors and analysts see more weakness ahead.

"We enjoyed quite a period of euro strength in the first 24 to 48 hours," said Kevin Colglazier, of Global Asset Management. Now, however, "the US continues to deliver quite a stellar performance. Whereas Europe is on a slowing path and people are coming to expect rate cuts in the first half of the year."

US gross domestic product soared in the fourth quarter, surging by an annual 5.6% and outstripping economists' expectations for

growth of 4.5%. By contrast, the Kiel Institute for World Economics, one of the Germany's top think tanks, says it expects Europe's largest economy to grow just 2% this year, down from an earlier forecast of 2.3%.

Derek Halpenny, a currency economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi who expected the euro to be worth \$1.20 by the end of March, now expects the European currency to decline to \$1.11 in coming months.

Those US growth numbers, combined with a spate of reports this month showing low unemployment, modest price and employment cost gains, and a rebound in manufacturing, augur gains for US stocks and bonds - and the US currency needed to pay for them.

"The US economy appears to have started this year with significant growth momentum," said Stewart Newnham, a currency strategist at Commerzbank AG. "Growth fundamentals have not tilted in favor of Euroland as initially expected."

For the 11 nations that adopted the euro, the European Commission in October forecast 2.6% growth in 1999. The commission has conceded that since it made that forecast, "there is evidence" life won't be so sweet. And with annual inflation in the euro region falling to 0.8% in December, its lowest level ever, the European Central Bank has few

reasons not to cut interest rates, diminishing the return on euro deposits, traders said.

"There's been a downgrading in European growth rates and a feeling that the ECB may have to cut interest rates, whereas at the beginning of the year many people may not have expected that," said Henry Wilkes, the chief currency trader at Bank Julius Baer.

In a Bloomberg survey this month, 15 of 27 investors, economists, and securities traders said they expect the ECB will cut its benchmark lending rate from its current 3.0% during the first quarter. Few, if any, are looking for a corresponding cut from the Federal Reserve, especially after Chairman Alan Greenspan told US legislators "signs of an appreciable slowdown as yet remain scant."

In January, many traders expected the euro to gain as money managers increased their investments in the newly created \$10 trillion bond and equity market denominated in the single currency.

"At the beginning of the year everyone was looking for a huge shift of money" into euro-denominated assets, said Dan Scherman, a portfolio manager at MFS Asset Management in Boston. The portfolio shift did not occur in these first few weeks of trading, and now the fundamentals are taking over. Expectations the dollar would decline after Brazil let its currency,

the real, float freely, proved short-lived. The move fanned concern that other Latin American countries would devalue their currencies, slowing growth in the region and damping demand for exports from the US, which does about a fifth of its trade with Latin America.

Growing US trade and current account deficits were also cited as reasons to sell the dollar.

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Pakistan score 12-run Test victory vs. India

MADRAS (AP) — In a nailbiting finish, Pakistan scored a sensational 12-run victory over India yesterday in the first cricket Test played in the subcontinent between the two arch-rivals in 12 years.

Pakistani players knelt and kissed the ground and jumped with joy as their star off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq bowled India's Javagal Srinath to win the first Test in this south Indian city.

"This is one of the closest games we've played," Pakistani captain Wasim Akram said after the match.

Indian skipper Mohammed Azharuddin said the Pakistanis "played a brilliant game."

Some 35,000 spectators at the M.A. Chidambaram stadium in this southern city gave a standing ovation to the Pakistani players as they did a victory lap. "The crowd really supported us all the way," Pakistan's captain, Akram said.

Pakistanis, who dominated the Test until lunch, appeared to be losing to India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar who scored a magnificent 136. Tendulkar was declared Man of the Match but could not receive the award as he rested after developing muscle spasms and couldn't walk.

When Tendulkar got out, India needed 17 runs with three wickets in hand. But Akram and Mushtaq mopped up the Indian tail.

India will have an opportunity to level the series at the second and last Test in New Delhi February 4-8. "Hopefully, we will come out with flying colors," Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin said in a post-match comment.

Sachin Tendulkar and Nayan Mongia raised visions of an Indian victory by putting 136 runs for the sixth wicket after India's five top

batsmen had got out for mere 82 runs.

The two batsmen opened up after tea and virtually set the proceedings on fire. Tendulkar hit Mushtaq for four fours in one over.

He then turned an Akram delivery to square leg and reached his 18th Test century. His 136 included 18 fours.

Soon after, Mongia swung Mushtaq over square leg for a six to reach his 50.

Mongia soon got out trying to hit Akram over mid off. Waqar Younis held the catch. India had recovered to 218 for six.

The enthusiasm of the spectators waned as India lost the important wickets of Rahul Dravid, Azharuddin and Saurav Ganguly in the morning.

"We got a little negative in the morning when we lost a couple of wickets," Azharuddin said.

Mushtaq lived up to his reputation as the best off-spinner in the game, capturing five wickets in India's each innings.

The Test was being played in India after 12 years — the political hostility often spills on to the cricket pitch necessitating games to be played in a neutral country — and it turned out to be an absorbing seesaw battle right from the word go.

India yielded the initiative to Pakistan by batting poorly after dismissing Pakistan for 238 in the first innings.

Yesterday, shortly after the first drinks break, Mustaq dismissed Indian captain Azharuddin who offered no stroke to a spinning delivery and umpire Steve Dunn adjudged him leg before wicket.

Just before lunch, Ganguly was given out caught by wicket-keeper Moin Khan off Mushtaq. Ganguly's shot had ricocheted from the body

of a close-in fielder.

Indians were unhappy with both the decisions. Television replay showed that the ball had hit the ground before Khan caught Ganguly. In Azharuddin's case, the Indian side said he had stretched full forward and should not have been given out.

The latest Test series almost never took off after a smash, but violent right-wing party, threatened to disrupt the games.

The Shiv Sena, which is in power in the western state of Maharashtra and which is part of the 19-party coalition that governs India opposed the match.

The party, however, withdrew its threat at the last minute under pressure from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The group said India should not play Pakistan because the latter encourages separatist guerrillas fighting in the Himalayan territory of Kashmir. Pakistan denies it trains or arms the militants, and that it only gives them moral support. Both countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

Scorecard
End of the first Test between India and Pakistan at the M.A. Chidambaram stadium.

Pakistan (1st innings)	238 India (1st innings)
254 Pakistan (2nd innings)	286 India (2nd innings)
Saqlain Mushtaq c Inzamam-ul-Haque b Waqar Younis 5	W.V.S. Laxman bow b Waqar Younis 0
Rahul Dravid b Wasim Akram 10	Rahul Dravid b Wasim Akram 10
Sachin Tendulkar c b Saqlain Mushtaq 136	Azharuddin bow b Saqlain Mushtaq 2
Azharuddin bow b Saqlain Mushtaq 2	Ganguly c Moin Khan b Mushtaq 7
Mongia c Waqar Younis b Wasim Akram 52	Mongia c Waqar Younis b Wasim Akram 52
Saurav Ganguly c b Saqlain Mushtaq 8	Saurav Ganguly c b Saqlain Mushtaq 8
Arvind Kulkarni bow b Wasim Akram 1	Arvind Kulkarni bow b Wasim Akram 1
Javagal Srinath b Saqlain Mushtaq 1	Javagal Srinath b Saqlain Mushtaq 1
Wasim Akram bow b Saqlain Mushtaq 1	Wasim Akram bow b Saqlain Mushtaq 1
Extras (byes 8, lbw 10, not out) 36	Extras (byes 8, lbw 10, not out) 36
Total (all out, 95.2 overs) 238	Total (all out, 95.2 overs) 238
Fall of wickets: 1/5, 2/6, 3/50, 4/73, 5/82, 6/118, 7/254, 8/256, 9/258. Bowling: Wasim Akram 22-4-80-3 (not out) Waqar Younis 12-4-28-2 Shoaib Akhtar 16-7-22-0 (not out) Saqlain Mushtaq 32-5-93-5 Nadeem Khan 12-5-18-0.	



LAST GASP — Indian batsman and 'Man of the Match' Sachin Tendulkar plays a pull shot to the leg side as Pakistani 'keeper Moin Khan looks on. Pakistan won the match by 12 wickets. (Reuters)

Disgraced Ponting in hero's return

PERTH (Reuters) — Ricky Ponting made a remarkable come-back from disgrace when he was the man of the match award as Australia beat Sri Lanka by 45 runs in their tri-series match at the WACA ground yesterday.

The result guaranteed the best-of-three finals will be between Australia and England, starting on February 10.

Replying to Australia's 274 for seven, Sri Lanka were all out for 229 off 46.3 overs.

Ponting, in his first match back from a three-match suspension incurred for his part in a drunken brawl in a Sydney nightclub, was the hero for Australia.

After making a polished 39, he effected a brilliant run-out, took a classic catch at mid-wicket and claimed one for 41 from his 10 overs.

Ponting was justifiably satisfied with his game, although surprised at being asked by Warner to bowl his full complement of overs.

Warne said the recent events surrounding Ponting had been a contributing factor in his decision to give the young Tasmanian so many overs.

"I'd thought I'd go to Ricky to get him back in the game," Warner said. "We had all missed him."

Sri Lanka's victory bid received a major setback in the 13th over when opener Sanath Jayasuriya had to retire hurt after scoring 50 from 49 balls when he was hit a sickening blow on the right arm by Brendon Julian.



PARLOUR GAMES — Arsenal's Ray Parlour is fouled by Chelsea midfielder Marcel Desailly. The Gunners beat Chelsea to knock them from the top of the Premier League. (Reuters)

Yorke heads United to top as Chelsea lose at Arsenal

LONDON (Reuters) — Manchester United beat Charlton Athletic 1-0 and champions Arsenal defeated Chelsea by the same score yesterday as the race for the Premier League title developed into one of the tightest for years.

United's victory at The Valley, thanks to a fine 89th-minute header from Dwight Yorke — his 18th goal of the season — put them on 44 points after 23 matches, one ahead of Chelsea and Aston Villa and two clear of Arsenal.

United are top for the first time this season, not counting a 24-hour spell in December when they had a match more than then-leaders Villa.

United were made to work hard for the points which left Charlton one point and one place off the bottom.

The visitors dominated the second half but Charlton had several worthwhile chances before England's Paul Scholes crossed for Yorke to head in off the far post.

Charlton have now lost nine of their last 10 league matches, gone 13 league matches without a win and seem set for a quick return to the first division with bottom club Nottingham Forest.

While United were winning in south London, Arsenal were enjoying success across the river as Dennis Bergkamp struck in the 32nd minute for the only goal of the game.

That was enough to end Chelsea's 21-match unbeaten league which stretched back to the first day of the season.

"It was very important to win today and it could prove very decisive," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "Chelsea are a very

good side, and came at us powerfully in the second half, and we did well to win such a hard match."

Arsenal's goal symbolized their utter determination not to give up their title without a fight.

Winger Marc Overmars beat Dan Petrescu to flick on Emmanuel Petit's 50-meter ball and Bergkamp ran on to coolly place the ball past Ed de Goey.

It was a rare chance in a tightly-contested first half that several times threatened to boil over, as this fixture so often has in recent seasons.

Arsenal made an official complaint at halftime, claiming that Dennis Wise had raked his studs down Bergkamp's shin off the ball, but the incident was not seen by the officials.

Bergkamp looked set to score again three minutes into the second half when he brought down a lofted through ball but then allowed the ball to run away as he shaped to shoot.

Chelsea, who have been off-color in recent weeks and needed a controversial last-minute penalty to escape defeat at first division Oxford in the F.A. Cup last week, began to show more of their neat passing football after the break, with Wise and Roberto Di Matteo finding more space in midfield.

With Patrick Mera tripping through suspension Petit faced a huge task in the midfield battle but the French World Cup-winner delivered another sterling display.

For all Chelsea's possession they failed to test England keeper David Seaman, making his first appearance after missing the last seven games, and a long-range left-footer from Di Matteo in the

51st minute was a rare on-target effort.

Petit and Martin Keown both made vital interceptions as Chelsea probed around the edge of the box but the defensive discipline that has seen just four goals conceded at Highbury never looked like cracking.

Gianfranco Zola was again ineffective and he was replaced in the 73rd minute by Icelandic youngster Mikael Forsell, making his debut.

Arsenal's latest signing, Kaba Diawara, entered the game with 16 minutes to go to become the sixth Frenchman to take part, joining team-mates Petit, Remi Garde and Nicolas Anelka and Chelsea's Frank Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly.

Bradford conceded a last-minute penalty and went down 2-1 at Birmingham City to squander a chance of cutting Sunderland's lead over division one from seven points to four.

Premier League

GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	23	12	3	30	24	44
Chelsea	23	11	10	2	34	19
Aston Villa	23	12	7	4	35	22
Arsenal	23	11	9	3	24	11
Leeds	23	9	9	5	36	23
Liverpool	23	10	5	8	44	28
Wimbledon	23	9	8	4	29	33
Sheff Wed	23	8	10	5	23	20
West Ham	23	9	6	8	25	31
Middlesbrough	23	7	11	5	32	28
Tottenham	23	7	9	7	29	31
Leicester	23	7	9	7	25	30
Newcastle	23	7	7	9	28	28
Sheff Wed	23	7	5	11	25	26
Everton	23	5	9	9	13	25
Crewe	23	5	12	23	32	23
Blackburn	23	5	11	22	30	22
Sunderland	23	5	5	13	23	46
Charlton	23	3	8	12	26	37
Notts Forest	23	3	7	13	19	41

UConn beats St. John's to stay perfect

NCAA BASKETBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — Top-ranked Connecticut found a way to remain the nation's only unbeaten top team as No. 9 St. John's hung close with the nation's best for the second time in a week, before succumbing 78-74 on Saturday.

The Huskies (19-0, 11-0 Big East) came up with the deciding run in a game of runs and beat the Red Storm for their 16th straight conference win and the fourth straight that came after they were trailing at halftime.

The Red Storm (17-5, 8-2) completed a week that saw them lose 92-88 in overtime to No. 2 Duke and win 75-70 at No. 17 Syracuse. For the second time in six days in front of a sellout crowd at Madison Square Garden, they came up four points short against the top two teams in the country.

Richard Hamilton led the Huskies with 22 points and eight rebounds, while Kevin Freeman had 16 points and seven rebounds. Khalid El-Amin had 15 points and six assists.

Postell led St. John's with 23 points and 11 rebounds and Reggie Jessie had 17 points and eight rebounds.

The teams finished even in rebounds with 42 each. St. John's had 21 on the offensive end.

No. 2 Duke 80, NC State 61

William Avery and Elton Brand provided enough offensive punch in the second half as a weary No. 2 Duke mustered enough energy to win on the road.

The Blue Devils (21-1, 9-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), coming off emotional wins over highly-ranked St. John's and North Carolina and playing for the third time in six days, gutted this one out, winning their 16th straight.

Duke's ninth straight double-digit ACC win sets up a showdown Wednesday in Cameron Indoor Stadium against No. 4 Maryland.

Meanwhile, N.C. State (13-8, 3-6) lost to Duke for the 17th time in the last 20 meetings.

No. 3 Stanford 73

Arizona St. 63

Third-ranked Stanford, in serious danger of losing for the second time in three nights, turned to defense to salvage a road victory.

Peter Sauer had 13 points and 10 rebounds, while Kris Weems and Arthur Lee added 12 points apiece as the Cardinal (18-3, 8-1 Pac-10) spluttered offensively most of the game.

But tough defense during a late 16-0 run and a huge advantage at the free throw line pulled the game out for Stanford, which had lost its 13-game winning streak snapped in a 78-76 loss at Arizona on Thursday night.

No. 6 Kentucky 86, LSU 62

In a win over LSU that was truly a team effort, with 11 host Kentucky players scoring, it was only appropriate that point guard Wayne Turner was the headliner.

Turner became the 46th Wildcat to score 1,000 points on Saturday, finishing with 14 — and 1,012 for



GRAND THEFT — UNC Charlotte's Galen Young (r) swipes the ball from Louisville's Dion Edwards in Saturday night action. Charlotte won 58-49. (Reuters)

his career — in the No. 6 Wildcats' win.

Since 1996, when he averaged 4.5 points per game and started eight times for Kentucky's national championship team, Turner has been Kentucky's Mr. Everything.

He holds the school record for most career steals, is seventh on Kentucky's all-time assists list and, barring injury, will set a school record for games played in the regular season finale at Tennessee.

"You have to realize defense, that's what's going to get you back to the tournament," said Turner, who can break Christian Laettner's NCAA record for games played with another deep tournament run.

The victory was the Wildcats' 300th at Rupp Arena, the 23-year-old facility named for longtime coach Adolph Rupp, and ninth win in 10 home games this season.

No. 8 Michigan St. 65

Northwestern 48

Andre Hutson, who scored a total of 13 points in his five previous games, had 14 as No. 8 Michigan State won at home.

Hutson, who was scoreless in two of those five games, also pulled down eight rebounds as the

Spartans won their seventh straight game. Morris Peterson had 11 points for Michigan State.

The Spartans (18-4, 7-1) remained atop the Big Ten standings with their 14th win in their last 15 games. Michigan State has lost only once in its last 23 home games against Northwestern and the Spartans are 9-0 against the Wildcats at the Breslin Center.

No. 12 Wisconsin 61

No. 19 Minnesota 50

Ty Calderwood scored 18 points, including eight of Wisconsin's last 10, to lead the No. 12 Badgers to a home win.

Calderwood scored four points in an 8-0 run as the Badgers (19-3, 7-2 Big Ten) opened up a 57-45 lead. After Minnesota scored five straight points, Calderwood put the game away with four consecutive free throws in the final seconds.

Quincy Lewis, the Big Ten's leading scorer, led Minnesota (13-5, 4-4) with 28 points. The Gophers were forced to play most of the game without freshman center Joel Pryzbilla, who was plagued by foul trouble.

No. 15 Ohio St. 64, Illinois 61

Scoomie Penn and Michael Redd scored 15 points apiece as No. 15

Ohio State survived a wild finish to win on the road.

Redd hit one of two free throws with 29 seconds left to give Ohio State a 62-61 lead, and Brian Brown made two foul shots with five seconds to go to seal the win for the Buckeyes (16-6, 6-3 Big Ten).

College Basketball Top 25

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Fv
1	Connecticut (54)	17-0	1,755	1
2	Duke (17)	19-1	1,719	2
3	Stanford	17-2	1,593	3
4	Harvard	18-2	1,549	4
5	Cincinnati	17-1	1,544	5
6	Kentucky	18-4	1,586	6
7	Ashburn	18-1	1,276	7
8	Michigan St.	16-4	1,211	8
9	St. John's	17-4	1,177	9
10	North Carolina	17-4	1,166	10
11	NC State	14-4	1,066	11
12	Wisconsin	18-3	985	12
13	Arizona	13-3	935	13
14	Purdue	15-5	925	14
15	Ohio St.	15-5	911	15
16	Iowa	13-4	867	16
17	Syracuse	14-5	890	17
18	New Mexico	16-4	833	18
19	Minnesota	12-4	804	19
20	Indiana	16-4	790	20
21	Arkansas	14-5	742	21
22	Kansas	13-5	724	22
23	Miami	12-4	711	23
24	Yves Christian	15-4	711	24
25	Florida	14-3	666	25

Grid hall beckons LT

Pakistan win Test



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Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

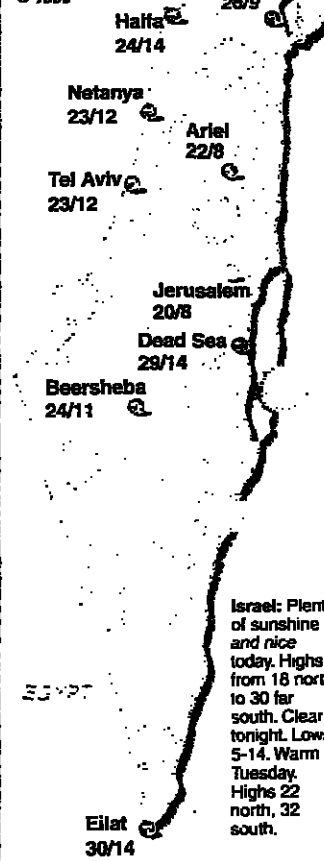
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City	Today	High	Low	Today	High	Low
C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Ariel	22/12	24/14	20/8	22/12	24/14	20/8
Beersheba	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8
Dead Sea	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8
Eilat	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8
Haifa	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8
Jerusalem	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8
Katza	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8
Netanya	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8
Tel Aviv	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8
Tiberias	24/11	26/14	20/8	24/11	26/14	20/8

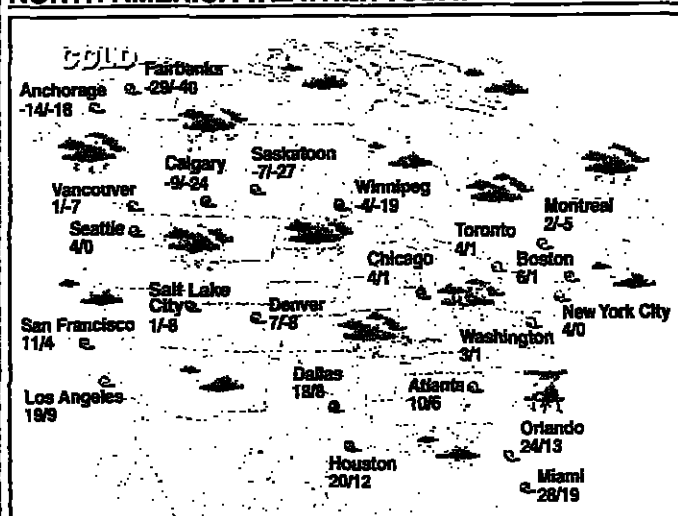
INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Today	High	Low
C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Amsterdam	44/50	46/52	42/48	44/50	46/52	42/48
Beijing	64/72	66/74	62/68	64/72	66/74	62/68
Berlin	64/72	66/74	62/68	64/72	66/74	62/68
Buenos Aires	74/82	76/84	70/78	74/82	76/84	70/78
Caracas	24/32	26/34	22/30	24/32	26/34	22/30
Chicago	32/40	34/42	30/38	32/40	34/42	30/38
Frankfurt	32/40	34/42	30/38	32/40	34/42	30/38
Hong Kong	22/30	24/32	20/28	22/30	24/32	20/28
Los Angeles	64/72	66/74	62/68	64/72	66/74	62/68
London	54/62	56/64	50/58	54/62	56/64	50/58
Madrid	54/62	56/64	50/58	54/62	56/64	50/58
Mexico City	22/30	24/32	20/28	22/30	24/32	20/28
Montreal	22/30	24/32	20/28	22/30	24/32	20/28
Moscow	54/62	56/64	50/58	54/62	56/64	50/58
New York	42/50	44/52	40/48	42/50	44/52	40/48
Paris	42/50	44/52	40/48	42/50	44/52	40/48
Prague	42/50	44/52	40/48	42/50	44/52	40/48
Rio de Janeiro	22/30	24/32	20/28	22/30	24/32	20/28
Rome	54/62	56/64	50/58	54/62	56/64	50/58
Sydney	22/30	24/32	20/28	22/30	24/32	20/28
Tokyo	64/72	66/74	62/68	64/72	66/74	62/68
Toronto	22/30	24/32	20/28	22/30	24/32	20/28
Vancouver	22/30	24/32	20/28	22/30	24/32	20/28
Warsaw	54/62	56/64	50/58	54/62	56/64	50/58
Washington	32/40	34/42	30/38	32/40	34/42	30/38
Zurich	54/62	56/64	50/58	54/62	56/64	50/58

MOON PHASES

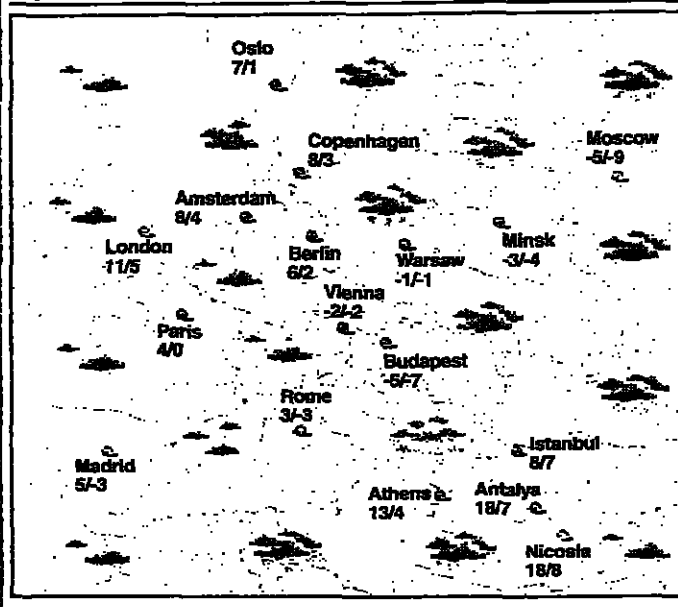
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Jan 31	Feb 8	Feb 16	Feb 23

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ELZALZAL Weekends

Kafelnikov wins Aussie Open title

MELBOURNE (AP) — Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov outsmarted Swedish power hitter Thomas Enqvist to win the Australian Open final and his second Grand Slam title yesterday.

The 1996 French Open champion and No. 10 seed moved to a No. 3 ranking in the world with his 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 7-6 (7-1) victory over the unseeded Enqvist.

Kafelnikov thanked his coach Larry Stefanki, and also No. 1 Pete Sampras, who decided to miss the tournament because of tiredness.

"Pete, it's really a great wonderful feeling thanks for letting me do that," Kafelnikov joked.

Kafelnikov was overpowered in an early baseline duel but used his experience to run Enqvist ragged in a nine-game streak through the second set and into the third.

He hung on grimly in the third set as fatigue moved in and was steady through the fourth set tiebreaker after the set went all the way with serve.

Enqvist lost the first five points of the breaker and surrendered the match with a double fault. It was his 62nd unforced error.

"He played too solid for me today," said Enqvist. "Next year, maybe, can go all the way."

Kafelnikov's victory earned him \$454,860 while Enqvist got \$227,430.

Enqvist broke Kafelnikov in the fifth game of the first set but the Russian turned the match around by moving the Swede away from the sanctuary of the baseline.

Enqvist, a different player when forced to volley at the net, struggled to finish off the set at 5-4. He took it on the fourth set point as Kafelnikov hit a return wide. The Russian had a break point during the game and he was horrified when a line umpire gave a close call against him.

Kafelnikov ripped through the second set with three breaks as



BACKHAND COMPLIMENT — Yevgeny Kafelnikov returns a backhand from Thomas Enqvist en route to his finals win. (Reuters)

Enqvist lost control over his main weapon, a backhand down the line, and played poorly near the net.

Kafelnikov won the first three games of the third, extending his run to nine straight, before Enqvist staged a mini recovery.

Enqvist finally ended the dismal slide by holding in the fourth game

with two aces and then got back into the match with a break in the fifth as his backhand power returned.

As the Swede soared back the Russian started to lose his cool.

He shaped to smash down his racket as an Enqvist ace fizzed by in the sixth game and hung his

head as the Swede held for 3-3.

Enqvist had a break point as Kafelnikov started to look tired in the seventh game but the Russian was able to scrape through for a 4-3 lead and his survival proved crucial.

Kafelnikov then claimed a second break of the set when Enqvist played a regulation forehand long

from the baseline. He held in the ninth to go 2-1 up.

The fourth set went to serve all the way to the breaker.

Enqvist served first and lost the point after a close call went against him. A double fault at 0-3 put him into a hole from which he could not get out.

Robinson gets OK to start Super Bowl
Falcons' safety busted for sex solicitation

MIAMI (AP) — Pro Bowl safety Eugene Robinson of the Atlanta Falcons was cleared yesterday to start the Super Bowl hours

after his arrest on a charge of soliciting an undercover police officer for oral sex.

Falcons coach Dan Reeves said the team will not publicly address the Saturday night arrest at this time, but he had no misgivings about allowing Robinson to play in the championship game against the Denver Broncos.

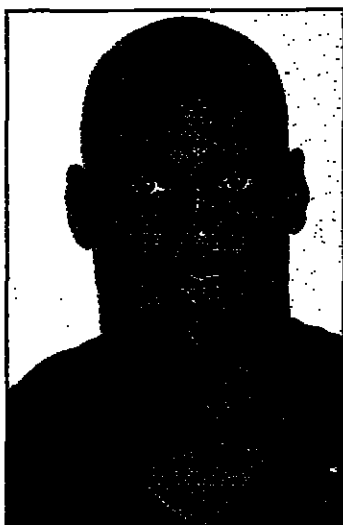
"That's strictly up to Eugene," said Reeves, speaking poolside from his team's hotel. "As far as I'm concerned, and as far as the league is concerned, he can play. He'll have to make that decision later in day."

Reeves sought to contain the attention surrounding the arrest in the hours leading to the game, the first time in 33 years the Falcons were playing for the NFL title.

"That's something that's a family matter and we're going to treat it as a family matter," he said. "I love Eugene unconditionally."

Police said Robinson was arrested at 9 p.m. on Biscayne Boulevard, a major street frequented by prostitutes and drug dealers.

Most Falcons players refused comment, but linebacker Henri



'WE'RE ALL SINNERS' — Falcons' defensive back Eugene Robinson. (AP)

Crockett said he was in shock. "I don't believe it ... anybody but Eugene," Crockett said Sunday from his hotel lobby. "I don't believe Eugene would do something like that. I know what kind of person he is. There has to be something more to it."

Robinson, whose family is with him in Miami, has spoken frequently of his deep religious faith. "Unfortunately, even as Christians, we do things wrong," Reeves said. "We're all sinners."

Defensive tackle Shane Dronett said the Falcons remained intent on concentrating on the game.

"We're not going to let it distract us," he said. "We'll stand beside Eugene. Until he says something we're not worried about it. I'm sure he's innocent," he added. "He was probably in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Robinson was driving a car, and was alone, when he offered the officer \$40 for oral sex, said police spokesman Angel Calzadilla.

Robinson was released from Miami Police headquarters around 11 p.m. to a Falcons team official. He promised to return for a court appearance, which is usually scheduled within 21 to 30 days.

Earlier Saturday, Robinson lunched by the pool at the team's hotel with his wife, Gia, and their 9-year-old son, Brandon. The couple also has an 11-year-old daughter, Brittany.

Robinson, who played in the last two Super Bowls with Green Bay, is the NFL's career leader among active players with 53 interceptions.

He signed with the Falcons as a free agent after the Packers decided to go with a younger player at his position. Robinson became the unquestioned leader of the Falcons' secondary and earning Pro Bowl honors.

The arrest is yet one more difficult side issue this season for the Falcons, following Reeves' heart bypass surgery in December.

"You can't put Eugene aside, but we've got to do our best," Reeves said. "We've done a good job dealing with distractions this year. We can't be distracted by anything."

Second-half surge wins for Jerusalem

By ELI GRONER

After Hapoel Jerusalem announced earlier in the day that it would not sign any new players to replace the injured H Waldman, Hapoel's depleted backcourt sparked a furious second-half flurry that propelled the Jerusalemites to a 94-60 victory at Mitha last night in National Basketball action.

Papi Turgeman and Mark Karver keyed a phenomenal 24-0 run over a six-minute stretch in the second half breaking open a 51-45 game into a blowout.

For the second game in a row, Turgeman filled Waldman's point guard role admirably, tallying 11 points and eight assists. In fact, the entire Jerusalem squad seemed to make ball-movement a top priority, as the team combined for a season-high 31 assists.

The constant search for the open man led to high-percentage shots, with Jerusalem converting 57% from the field (36-for-63), including 11-of-23 from three-point range.

But while it was the guards who helped to break the game open, it was Jerusalem's frontcourt which kept the league-leaders in the game while Turgeman and Doron Shefa struggled in the first half. Radisav Curcic, Kenny Williams and Derrick Hamilton combined for 42 of Jerusalem's 46 first-half points.

The win maintained Jerusalem's three-game lead over Maccabi Tel

Aviv. Curcic led all scorers with 27 points. Deon Thomas paced Rishon with 14.

Maccabi Ra'anana 77

Gali Elyon 68
The Ra'anans picked up an impressive road win and moved into fourth place in the process. Tomer Steinhilber paced the victors with 14 points.

Maccabi Haifa 71

Hapoel Holon 69
Host Holon couldn't capitalize on two missed free throws by Andrew Kennedy with 10 seconds remaining, enabling Haifa to emerge victorious. The win virtually insures that Haifa will remain in the First Division next season.

Slumping Holon lost its second consecutive game to teams with a combined 7-21 record.

Givat Shmuel 88

Hapoel Eilat 86
Norris Coleman led the victors with 23 points and Shane Rominski added 13 as Givat Shmuel picked up its first road win of the season.

Amir Katz tallied 17 in the loss.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 86

Hapoel Tel Aviv 62
Host Maccabi remained three games behind Hapoel Jerusalem by overwhelming its hapless cross-town rival.

Ramat Gan 82

Bnei Herzliya 64
Muli Katzur's club proved to be too powerful for the over-matched Herzliyan.

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Fighter remains critical with brain injury

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A professional boxer remained in critical condition yesterday with a brain injury after he was knocked out by the International Boxing Federation's No. 1 junior flyweight contender.

There was no change overnight in the condition of Fernando Ibarra, of Laredo, Texas, said a spokeswoman for Saint Louis University Hospital.

Ibarra had a blood clot on his brain after he was KO'd by Ratanachai Vorapin in the 6th round of an eight-rounder Friday night.